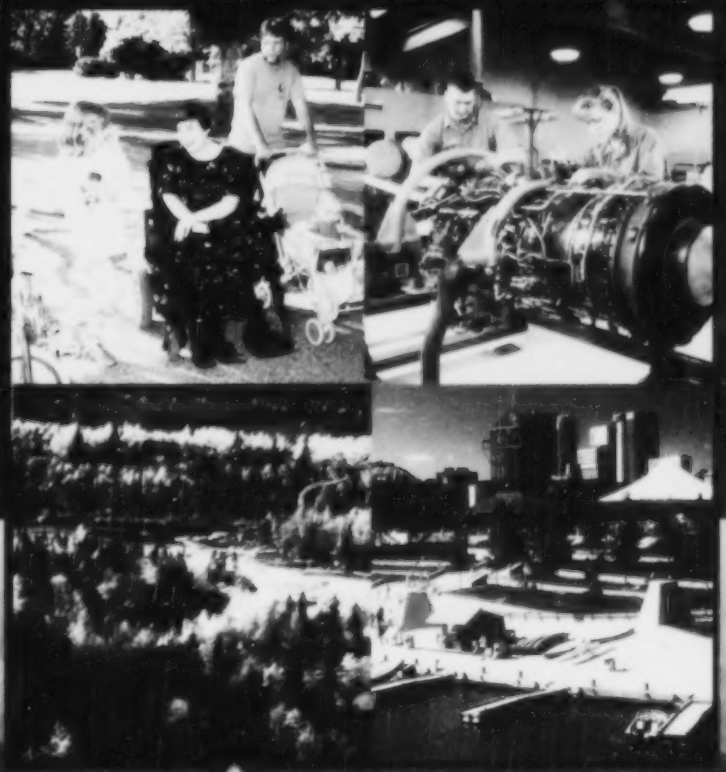

REPORTING TO MANITOBANS ON PERFORMANCE

2005 DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

Manitoba
Building for the Future

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105-06203/

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

I am pleased to present *Reporting to Manitobans on Performance – 2005 Discussion Document*. This discussion document represents a significant development in the way in which our government reports to Manitobans. Building on the solid foundation of our financial reporting, this document asks Manitobans for their views on the best way for the provincial government to expand the information that it provides to citizens on the progress it has made toward meeting its commitments.

Sixteen performance indicators have been selected for demonstration purposes, grouped in four categories that reflect important priorities for Manitobans:

- economy
- people
- community
- environment

Every effort has been made to present the information in this document in a concise and understandable format so Manitobans can clearly see our overall progress to date, know what actions are underway and assess where more work remains to be done.

This discussion document provides information on key performance indicators and represents an important step forward in our accountability to the public. In publishing this document, we are inviting comments from Manitobans on how to present this type of information in the future and on what is most important to report.

I trust you will find this discussion document interesting and helpful and I look forward to hearing your comments.

Greg Selinger

INTRODUCTION

Manitoba has many advantages, including an educated workforce, a growing economy, abundant, clean and renewable energy and a culturally rich and diverse population. The Manitoba government is building on these advantages for the future.

This discussion document presents information on Manitoba's performance in key priority areas. It is the first time a document of this type has been prepared. The provincial government wants to gather your views on this performance information, how it is presented and what additional information may be useful. Comments from Manitobans on this discussion document will help shape the specific performance indicators used in future reports.

The province's efforts reflect the priorities of Manitobans. These include:

- putting education first, by investing in education for youth and adults;
- moving ahead on health care;
- supporting children and youth;
- building stronger and safer communities;
- finding strength in our diverse economy and people;
- supporting research and innovation;
- protecting the health of our environment and emphasizing our clean, sustainable energy;
- enhancing the rural and northern economy and quality of life;
- building on the strengths of our northern and Aboriginal communities;
- assuring vibrant cities; and
- providing responsible and affordable government.

The provincial government is committed to being accountable to Manitobans for its progress in these important areas through efforts such as this discussion document. The province has significantly improved how financial indicators are reported and there will be continued improvements in budget and financial information. Budget 2005 committed to working towards fully implementing Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). This means using these accounting principles to present a summary budget for the entire government and its agencies in 2007/08. The province is also working towards ensuring accounting reporting practices keep pace with advances made across the country.

Traditional reporting provides information on how much money is spent in a particular area. Performance reporting can help us determine what results have been achieved from the investment of that money.

This discussion document starts a process to provide Manitobans with a more complete picture of the activities of government and their impact on the province. It also begins a discussion on the types of information Manitobans want in order to understand how the government is functioning. It presents a number of

The goal of economic growth is to improve the quality of life for all Manitobans. It is essential, therefore, that growth be managed in a way that preserves our environment, promotes the health and well-being of citizens, and enhances our unique Manitoba lifestyle.

— Throne Speech, November 22, 2004

performance indicators that demonstrate the types of measures which can show how government is doing in meeting key commitments that improve the quality of life in Manitoba.

Specific performance indicator reporting is already occurring in areas such as the economy, health care, education and the environment. Each fall, the provincial government publishes an annual report that reviews the government's efforts over the previous year in meeting budget commitments. In addition, the July 2005 report under *The Sustainable Development Act* will provide detailed information on the province's progress toward sustainability.

This discussion document contains a range of performance indicators divided into four categories: economy, people, community and environment. Each of the categories is in turn divided into two themes with performance indicators given for each. The data in this document comes from information that the provincial government collects as it delivers services to Manitobans. Some statistics are collected by external agencies. The performance indicators are expected to provide Manitobans with meaningful and useful information about particular categories and themes.

> *Performance measurement will be defined as the regular generation, collection, analysis, reporting and utilization of a range of data related to the operation of public organizations and public programs, including data on inputs, outputs and outcomes.*
>
> **Dr. Paul Thomas, "Performance Measurement, Reporting and Accountability: Recent Trends and Future Directions" (Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy, Paper 23, February, 2004)**

Wherever possible, information on outcomes or results is provided to show the effectiveness of programs or initiatives. In other cases, information on outcomes is not available and other types of measures are presented. For other indicator areas, data are just being gathered and will be provided in the future.

The 16 indicators in this discussion document give Manitobans information to assess government performance in key areas and reflect on important indicators of the overall quality of life in Manitoba. Your response to this document will help shape future efforts to report on performance to Manitobans and help determine which themes and categories are included or expanded. Your response will also influence the timing of the publication of future reports and how the information is presented to Manitobans.

WHAT IS A PERFORMANCE INDICATOR?

A performance indicator is a measurement that can help determine whether a particular program or initiative is achieving the desired results or expected outcomes.

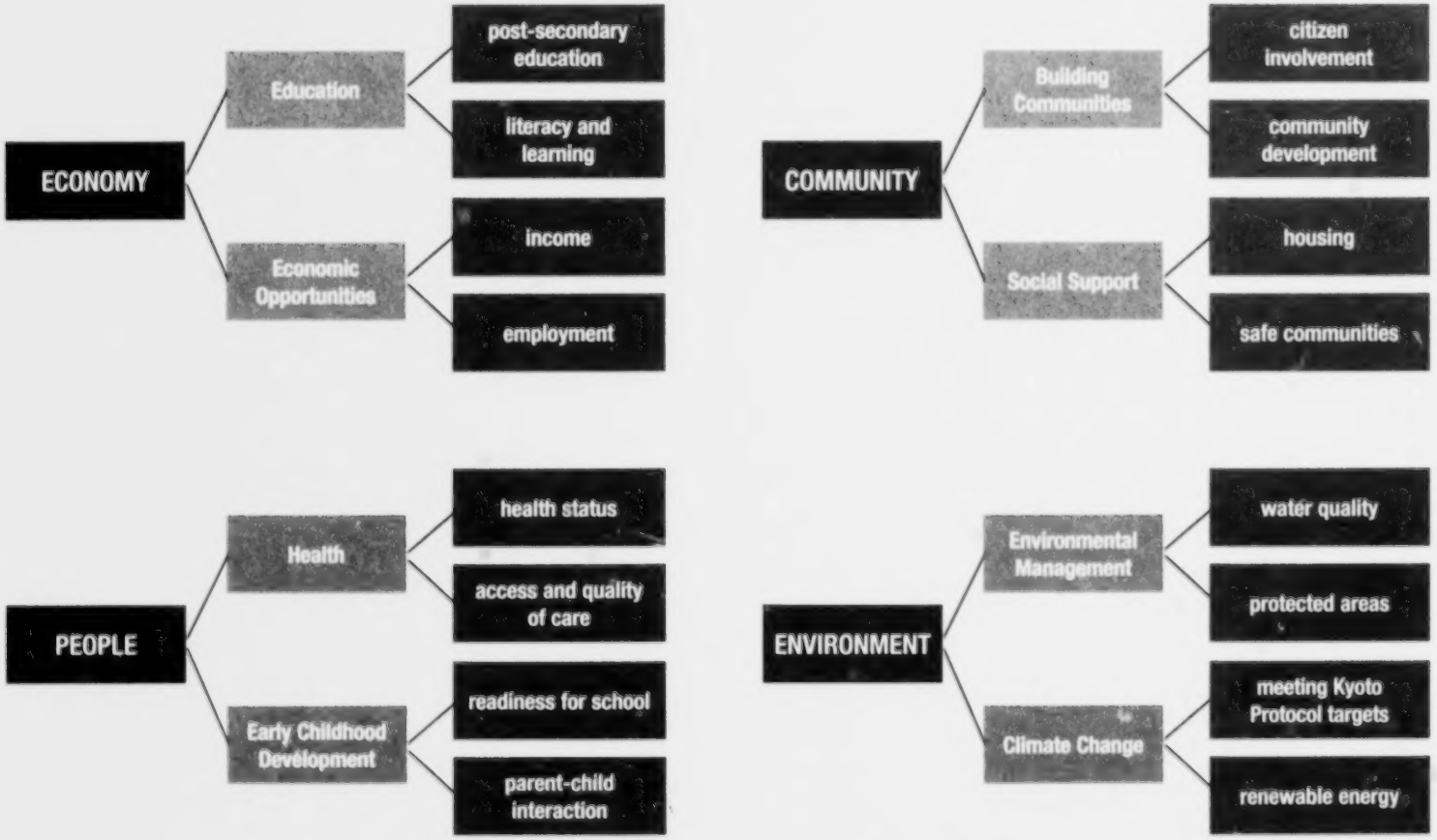
Programs and initiatives have inputs, such as the amount of money provided to a program and how many staff may provide a service. They also have outputs, such as the number of people served, number of sessions conducted or phone calls answered. Outcomes of a program or initiative focus on the expected results. These are the actual impacts, benefits or changes experienced by people during or after their involvement with a program or government action.

Performance indicators to measure outcomes can help us understand whether the inputs and outputs of a program are working as intended and if we are making progress toward targets or desired results.

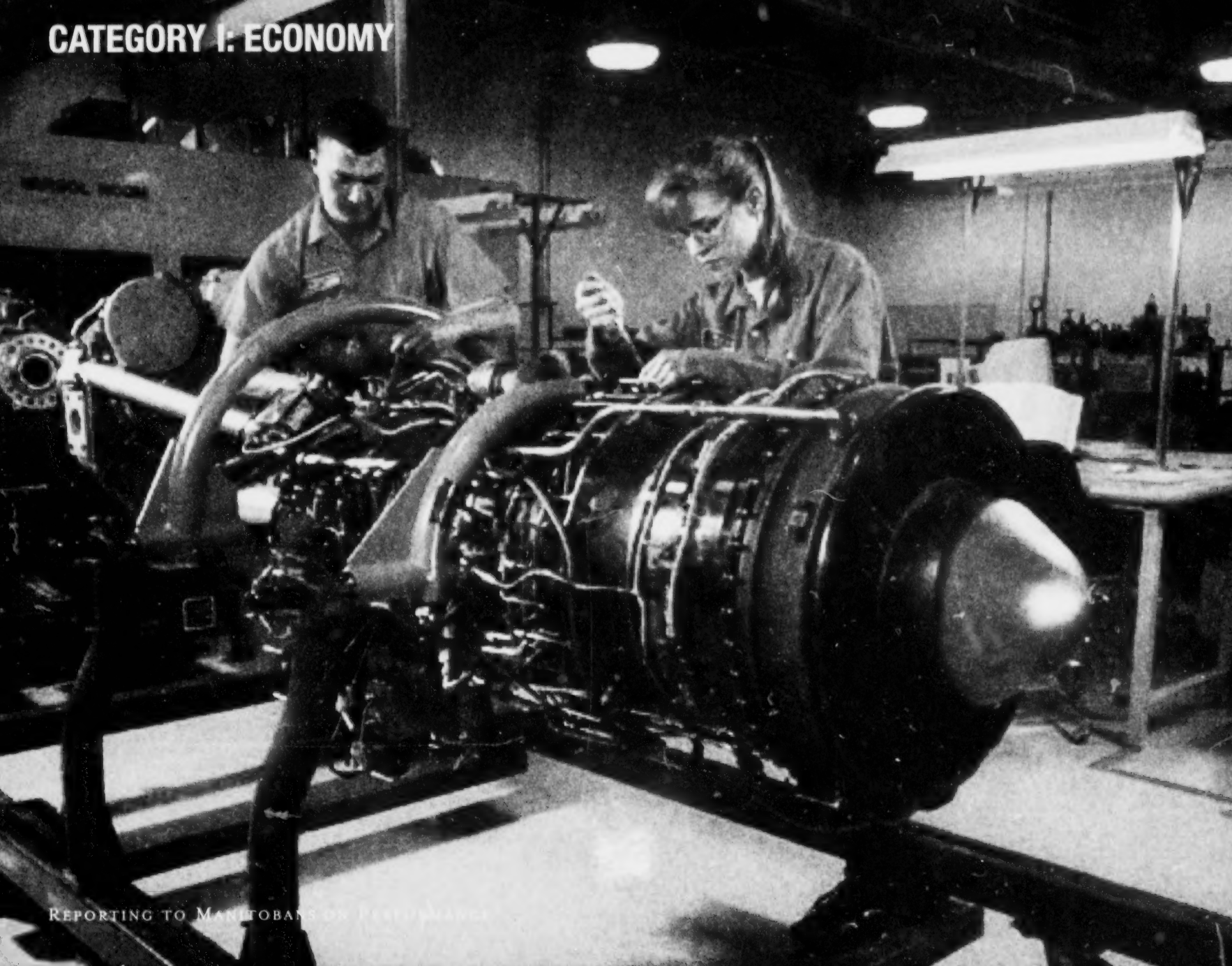
Please send any comments, prior to **November 1, 2005**, to:

Reporting to Manitobans on Performance – 2005 Discussion Document
200-386 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3R6
Phone: Manitoba Government Inquiry (MGI) at 1-866-Manitoba (1-866-626-4862)
Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
E-mail: mbperformance@gov.mb.ca
Website: **www.gov.mb.ca/finance/mbperformance**

REPORTING TO MANITOBANS ON PERFORMANCE – CATEGORIES, THEMES AND INDICATORS



CATEGORY I: ECONOMY



CATEGORY I: ECONOMY

Manitoba has one of the most diverse economies in Canada. Major economic sectors including manufacturing (e.g., food processing, aerospace), agriculture, transportation, energy, mining, forestry, insurance and commerce. This economic diversity is a source of great strength and stability. Manitoba's central location and low electric power rates make it attractive for new business and capital investment.

The government is committed to encouraging strong economic growth and opportunities for citizens, entrepreneurs and investors throughout Manitoba. *Manitoba's Action Strategy for Economic Growth* is based on recommendations from the Premier's Economic Advisory Council, which is made up of business, labour, education, Aboriginal and local government leaders. It provides the framework for realizing a commitment to economic growth through seven priority areas. Putting education first is the cornerstone of the strategy. To be strong and sustainable, Manitoba's economy requires a well-educated, highly skilled workforce. Supporting investments in research and innovation, another element of the strategy, will increase productivity, conserve resources and contribute to new product development. This, ultimately, will make Manitoba more competitive nationally and internationally.

This section of the document presents two key themes for economic growth:

- education, which focuses on indicators of post-secondary education and literacy and learning
- economic opportunities, which focuses on indicators of income and employment

MANITOBA'S ACTION STRATEGY FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

Key elements of Manitoba's Action Strategy for Economic Growth are:

- **education first**
- **building through research and innovation**
- **raising and retaining investment**
- **affordable government**
- **growing through immigration**
- **building our communities**
- **building on our clean energy advantage**

This strategy underpins Manitoba's approach to sustainable, equitable, long-term economic growth and competitiveness.

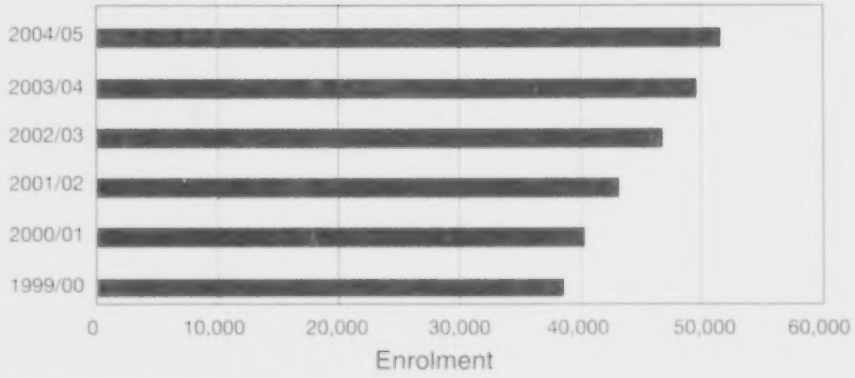
POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

IMPORTANCE TO MANITOBANS

Post-secondary education is increasingly important in obtaining employment. Studies show that higher levels of education are related to improved health and wellness. Education can also help end cycles of poverty and improve people's social conditions.

Affordable access to post-secondary education is very important. Financial barriers are being reduced by the government by maintaining low tuition rates and providing a variety of loans, grants, bursaries, scholarships and other financial awards.

FIGURE 1-1. **UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE ENROLMENT (ALL SESSIONS) 6 YEAR TREND 1999/00 TO 2004/05**



Source: Manitoba Advanced Education and Training

TRENDS/KEY MEASURES

Post-Secondary Enrolment Rates

Enrolment at all levels has been increasing. In universities, graduate enrolment increased by 25.6 per cent, and undergraduate enrolment increased by 33.5 per cent between 1999/00 and 2004/05.

In 2004, 58 per cent of the Manitoba labour force had at least some post-secondary education, up from 56 per cent in 1999.

In colleges, including University College of the North, enrolment increased by 30.7 per cent between 1999/00 and 2003/04.

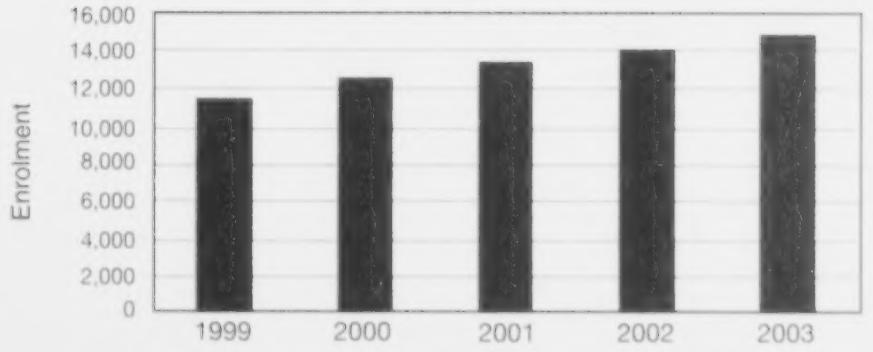
Enrolment in career-technical diploma and certificate programs at Manitoba colleges increased by 49.9 per cent between 1999/00 and 2003/04.

Educate, train and retain Manitoba workers, utilizing a variety of methods, for jobs that are specifically relevant to Manitoba's economy.

— Premier's Economic Advisory Council

Between 1999/00 and 2004/05, Manitoba colleges and universities saw a 92 per cent (1,306) increase in nursing enrolments, increasing from 1,427 in 1999/00 to 2,733 in 2004/05 (this includes first year and upgrading programs). Between 1999/00 and 2004/05, the number of nurses graduating from colleges and universities increased by 233 per cent, from 201 graduates in 1999/00 to 669 in 2004/05.

FIGURE 1-2. **COLLEGE ENROLMENT 1999 TO 2003**



Source: Manitoba Advanced Education and Training

While fewer Aboriginal Manitobans have university degrees than the general population, the percentage that has a trade, college or university certificate diploma is close to the general population (at 25.5 per cent and 28.5 per cent respectively).

University tuition in Manitoba was the third lowest in Canada from 1999 to 2003. Statistics Canada reports that arts and science tuition has gone up 20 per cent across the country since 1999. College tuitions went from second lowest in 1999/00 to lowest in Canada between 2000/01 and 2003/04, excluding Quebec.

Manitoba has the lowest student debt after remission of the provinces participating in the Canada Student Loans Program. Manitoba currently reduces average overall student cumulative debt to $11,465. This is done by paying Canada Millennium Scholarship Bursaries and Manitoba Bursaries against qualifying student loans each year.

RECENT ACTIONS ADDRESSING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Manitoba reduced tuitions in 2000/01 and has frozen tuition rates since 2000/01.
- **The College Expansion Initiative (CEI)** has made a $27 million investment to increase enrolment and graduates at colleges, as well as strategic infrastructure development. To date, CEI has funded 78 new and expanded programs, Red River College's Princess Street Campus in Winnipeg and 10 northern regional centres designed to enhance the University College of the North's community-based education efforts.
- Funding for non-repayable student support, such as scholarships and bursaries, has increased by $25.3 million since 1999/00 (e.g., Manitoba Bursary, Manitoba Graduate Scholarships and Access Bursaries). Tax measures are an additional form of support not counted in the number.
- An increase in maximum student loan assistance and reduced parental contribution expectations for 2005/06 will provide students with more financial aid, making post-secondary

MANITOBA'S ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ACTION PLAN 2004-2007 HAS FOUR OBJECTIVES:

- **Increase high school graduation rates**
- **Increase access to and completion of post-secondary education**
- **Increase successful entry into and participation in the labour market**
- **Improve the research base of Aboriginal education and employment.**

education more affordable and accessible.

- The interest-free period for students living in Manitoba after graduation has been extended from six months to 12 months after they complete their studies.
- **The Technical Vocational Initiative**, a three-year, $4.5 million project, began in April 2004 to revitalize technical vocational education in Manitoba.
- New funding in 2005/06 for apprenticeship and certification in the designated trades will continue providing skilled employees for the province's labour market. Half of the funds will support community-based apprenticeship learning. This will allow Manitobans who live in rural and northern areas the opportunity to train in their home communities. The remaining funds will be used to ensure compulsory certification standards are met.
- The first community-based training programs for apprenticeships began in 2002/03. Since then, ten northern/rural communities have participated in community-based training with 19 courses in the carpenter, plumber and cook trades delivered. Over 150 apprentices have participated in community-based training delivery since 2002. In 2004/05, five sections of carpenter apprenticeship training were delivered to 45 apprentices in four communities: Lake Manitoba, Chemawawin, Pinaymootang and Tataskwayak.
- In 2004/05, approximately 7,000 clients received assistance through Employment and Training Services to attend public and private post-secondary institutions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further information on the Council on Post-Secondary Education, which has primary responsibility for education at the college and university level, can be found at: **www.copse.mb.ca**

Further information on the College Expansion Initiative can be found at: **www.edu.gov.mb.ca/aet/cei/index.html**

Further information on Manitoba Student Aid programs and applications can be found at: **www.studentaid.gov.mb.ca**

Further information on private vocational institutions in Manitoba, which deal with vocational training not offered in public community colleges, can be found at: **www.edu.gov.mb.ca/aet/index.html**

Further information on apprenticeship training can be found at: **www.edu.gov.mb.ca/aet/learners/apprentices.html**

Further information on funding associated with research at universities in the province can be found at: **www.gov.mb.ca/est/index.html**

Further information on *Manitoba's Aboriginal Education Action Plan 2004-2007* can be found at: **www.edu.gov.mb.ca/abedu/action_plan/index.html**

LITERACY AND LEARNING

IMPORTANCE TO MANITOBANS

Manitobans must be highly educated and trained to be competitive in the global economy. High school completion is important for participation in the workforce.

Literacy plays an important role in employment and increases the opportunity for advancement in the workplace. Literacy has both individual and social benefits, affecting economic, educational, social and health status of individuals and society as a whole.

TRENDS/KEY MEASURES

Literacy

Enrolment in part-time adult literacy programs remains consistent at approximately 2,500. There is a steady increase in the number of students achieving higher skill levels, such as reading text, document use, writing and those taking more training.

The percentage of those enrolled in adult literacy programs that went on to further training as a result of literacy upgrading increased from 10 per cent in 2001/02 to 22 per cent in 2003/04. Approximately 30 per cent of adults in literacy programs and 40 per cent in Adult Learning Centres (ALCs) identified themselves to be Aboriginal.

The demand for workplace literacy programs has increased as employers require workers to have higher levels of skills to meet the needs of the changing workplace. Also, the nature of work being done changes, as does the nature of the

LITERACY ASSESSMENTS

Manitoba has been involved in several provincial, national and international literacy assessments for children, youth and adults:

- **Readiness to Learn – Manitoba's Grade 3 Assessment** – This annual assessment has found that the majority of students have successfully mastered all reading competencies and most numeracy competencies expected at this stage of their schooling.
- **OECD Program for International Student Assessment – PISA** – In 2000 and 2003 assessments, Manitoba students performed at the Canadian average in reading, mathematics and science, placing them among students from the top-ranked countries of the world.
- **Student Achievement Indicators Program** – This program assesses 13- and 16-year-old Manitoba students in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics and science. For both age groups, the proportions achieving acceptable levels were greatest in writing, followed by reading and math content.
- **OECD International Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey 2003** – This initiative is an international comparative study that seeks to profile the level and distribution of adult skills in prose literacy, document literacy, numeracy and problem solving, and to document the influence that skill exerts on social, economic, health and educational outcomes.

required literacy skills. Literacy skills are identified in job descriptions by more employers and business and labour organizations. Direct delivery programs are being developed and provided, reflecting the changing needs and priorities of the workforce.

Library memberships in Manitoba's public libraries have increased from 417,504 in 1999 to 508,654 in 2003.

Adults Completing High School

Since 2001, the number of adults completing a high school diploma at Adult Learning Centres has been steadily increasing.

ENROLMENTS IN ADULT LEARNING CENTRES

	2001/02*	2002/03	2003/04
Number of adults enrolled	6,040	9,766	9,715
Number of graduates (June)	851	1,011	1,254
Number of credits completed	9,309	11,624	12,253

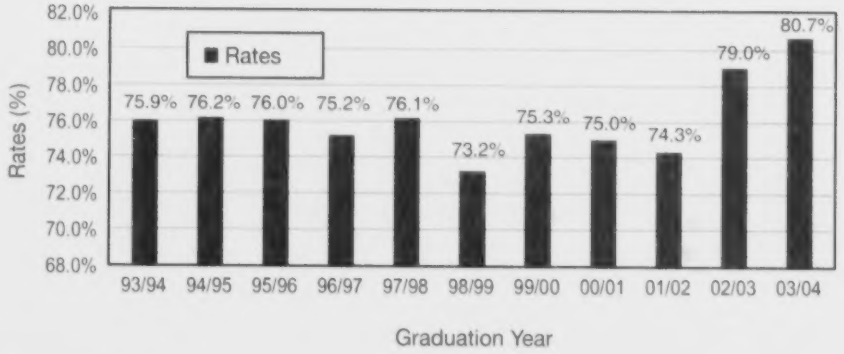
* Data on Adult Learning Centres are only available starting 2001/02.

High School Graduation Rates

Over the past decade, 12,000 to 14,000 students graduated annually from Manitoba high schools (public, independent and band-operated). The overall graduation rate rose from 75.9 per cent in 1994 to 80.7 per cent in 2004. An increasing number of graduates come from Adult Learning Centres. Higher proportions of female students than male students consistently graduate each year.

In Northern Manitoba, high school graduation rates are significantly lower than the province as a whole. According to the

FIGURE 1-3. **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES – PUBLIC SCHOOLS ONLY**



Source: Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth

2001 Census, about one-third of all Manitobans over 20 years of age have less than high school education, while close to half of those living in Northern Manitoba have less than high school completion.

RECENT ACTIONS ADDRESSING LITERACY AND LEARNING

- New school-based initiatives, such as dual-credit options with universities and colleges, processes to challenge courses for credit and introduction of a new technical-vocational initiative, encourage students to stay in school. A return to school is encouraged by expanding Adult Learning Centres and access to prior learning assessments.
- An allocation of $4.7 million through the Early Literacy Intervention Initiative supports school divisions/districts in efforts to provide early literacy intervention programs for the lowest achieving Grade 1 students.
- The Aboriginal Education Action Plan is intended to increase high school graduation rates, encourage post-secondary education and connect young Aboriginal people with employment opportunities.
- Almost $14.3 million has been committed for registered Adult Learning Centres across the province. In particular, northern, inner-city, rural and Aboriginal residents will benefit significantly from increased access to Adult Learning Centre programs and the flexible scheduling and delivery options that lead to a high rate of success.
- In 2004/05, the Aboriginal Community Campus and Yellowquill College Adult Learning Centres were registered as stand-alone centres. The principle of self-governance in these centres allows greater freedom in creating programs and policies that meet the needs of the Aboriginal community.
- The province has allocated $400,000 to 38 schools across the province aimed at increasing the involvement of Aboriginal parents and families in education. The Building Student Success with Aboriginal Parents program will help educators reach parents and family members who play a major role in helping students complete their high school education.
- To address poorer academic success rates in lower socioeconomic communities, the province has established the Community School Partnership Initiative. During 2005/06, the province will support 15 school communities as they develop plans for collaboration among school, families, the local community, and funding agencies. By working together, the partners can enhance not just student success but also the well-being of the whole community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further information on Manitoba Adult Learning and Literacy can be found at: **www.edu.gov.mb.ca/aet/all/index.html**

Further information on Manitoba's Early Literacy Initiative can be found at: **www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/specedu/eli/**

Further information on the Student Achievement Indicators Program can be found at: **www.cmec.ca/saip/indexe.stm**

Further information on the OECD Program for International Student Assessment can be found at: **www.pisa.oecd.org/**

Further information about workplace literacy can be found at Industry Training Partnership's coordinated websites:

www.wem.mb.ca/

www.plarinmanitoba.ca

www.wplar.ca

www.edu.gov.mb.ca/aet/learners/plar.html

www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/gateways/organizations/cluster/category/tl.shtml

INCOME

IMPORTANCE TO MANITOBANS

The level of income individuals or families have directly affects the material standard of living they are able to enjoy. Manitoba strives to create an economic climate that benefits its citizens in their daily lives and enhances their standard of living. By making Manitoba an affordable place to live, work and invest, we support the growth of the economic foundations of prosperity. We create a competitive environment as is evidenced by a growth in measures such as personal disposable income.

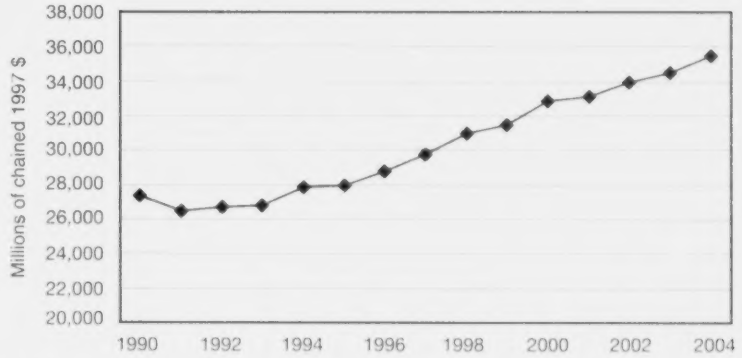
While progress has been made, there is still work to be done. By providing a range of opportunities through community and economic development, education and training, the government supports people to improve their family income.

TRENDS/KEY MEASURES

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Growth

Growth of incomes of Manitobans depends on the level of economic activity in the province. In 2004, the total income generated in the province, as measured by Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP), was $35.4 billion. This represented a growth of 2.8 per cent over 2003 levels. GDP growth has averaged 2.5 per cent in the last five years. This growth in the first half of the decade was well above the average growth of the 1990s when growth was 1.8 per cent. Business investment, with average annual growth of 4.0 per cent, was a key driver of the GDP growth in the 2000 to 2004 period.

FIGURE 1-4. **MANITOBA GDP GROWTH 1990 TO 2004**



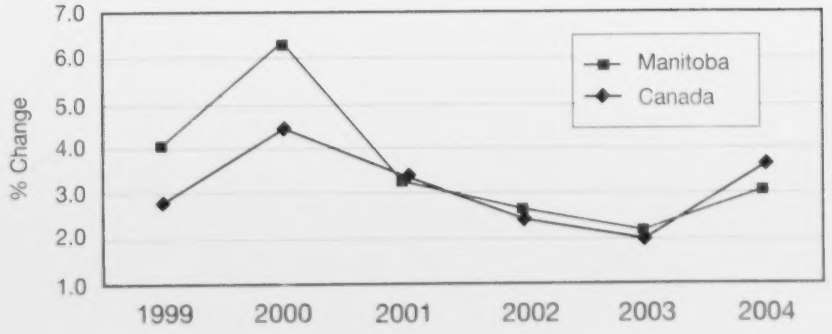
Source: Manitoba Bureau of Statistics

Personal Disposable Income (PDI) Per Capita

Personal disposable income (PDI) per capita is the average of what each Manitoban has to spend after personal taxes have been paid. It does not tell us how income is distributed across the population. It is widely used as a measure of economic well-being.

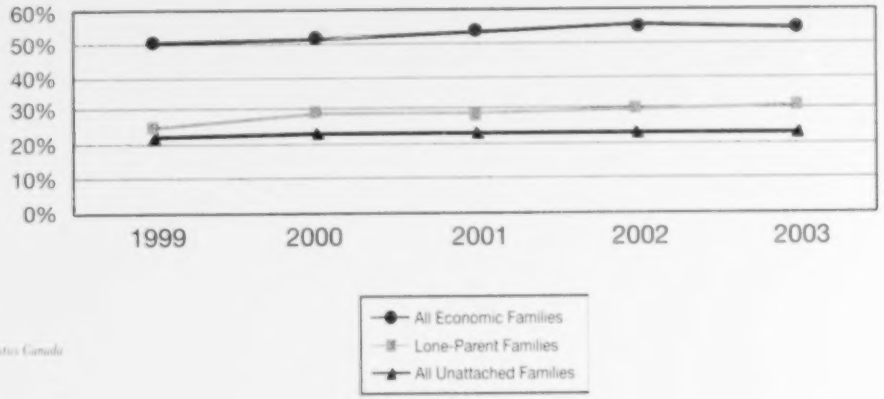
Since 1999, PDI per capita in Manitoba has grown by 16.7 per cent. The Conference Board of Canada is forecasting that PDI

FIGURE 1-5. **PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PERSONAL DISPOSAL INCOME MANITOBA AND CANADA**



Source: Manitoba Bureau of Statistics

FIGURE 1-6. **AFTER-TAX INCOME BY FAMILY TYPE (2003 CONSTANT DOLLARS) MANITOBA 1999 TO 2003**



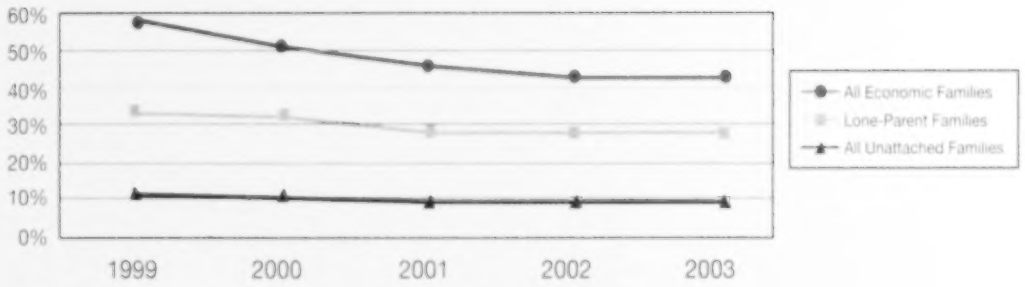
Source: Statistics Canada

per capita in Manitoba will increase by 2.8 per cent in 2005 and 3.7 per cent in 2006. Although Manitoba's PDI has traditionally been lower than Canada's as a whole, Figure 1-5 shows that recent rates of increase in Manitoba compare favourably to Canadian rates.

Income by Family Type

The average real after-tax income of Manitoba families and unattached individuals also has risen since 1999. After-tax incomes have increased across all income groups. While the real after-tax income of all families increased by six per cent between 1999 and 2003, it rose by 22 per cent for single parent families and by five per cent for unattached individuals.

FIGURE 1-7. **PERCENT OF PERSONS DEFINED AS LOW-INCOME (AFTER TAX) MANITOBA – 1999-2003**



Source: Statistics Canada

MEASURING LOW INCOME

In addition to monitoring changes in the overall income of families and individuals, it is important to know how many have low levels of income. The Statistics Canada after-tax low income cut-offs are used in this document to measure the percentage of Manitobans with low income. This measure is one of several that are regularly used in an attempt to define when a person or family is living with a low income.

There continues to be considerable discussion about what measure of low income is most appropriate, with the result that several measures are often used. In the United Kingdom, for example, three different measures are reported in an effort to better define child poverty. In Canada, a new measure – the Market Basket Measure – is under development. The Market Basket Measure estimates the cost of purchasing basic goods in a specific geographic area.

This measure was referenced in a paper on "Addressing Poverty in Manitoba" published with the 2005 Manitoba Budget as a measure that Manitoba is monitoring. In that paper, a number of initiatives are discussed which describe Manitoba's approach to integrating social and economic policy in an effort to create a community where all can work.

A recent discussion of some of the current low-income measures and the issues regarding the definition of child poverty can be found in a paper by Michael Mendelson, entitled *Measuring Child Benefits: Measuring Child Poverty*, published by the Caledon Institute of Social Policy (available at **www.caledoninst.org/**).

Level of Low Income

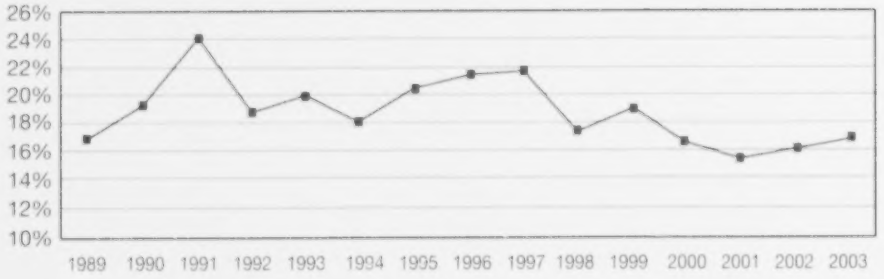
There has been a noticeable decline in the number of low-income Manitobans. The group with the highest rate of low income, female single parents, has experienced the largest decline in the rate of low income (26 per cent), falling from 59 per cent in 1999 to 44 per cent in 2003. This decline is connected to the beginning of the National Child Benefit program. Manitoba has ensured these benefits are now reaching the lowest income families.

As government actions help improve educational levels, promote good health, repair and expand infrastructure and increase public security, they create a stronger environment for economic growth which leads to rising incomes.

Child Low-Income Rates

The rate of children in low-income families rose in the early 1990s, fell somewhat between 1991 and 1997 and dropped substantially after that to a low of 15.6 per cent in 2001. It has edged up slightly since then to 16.7 per cent in 2003.

FIGURE 1-8. **PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS IN LOW-INCOME (AFTER TAX) MANITOBA 1989 TO 2003**



Source: Statistics Canada

RECENT ACTIONS ADDRESSING INCOME

- Manitoba has reduced personal and business taxes every year since 1999. This contributes directly to increases in personal disposable income while improving the climate for investment and economic growth.
- To reduce the number of Manitobans living with low incomes, several recent actions have been taken, including:
  - starting in 2000, changing the way provincial income tax is calculated. Income taxes were lowered by $249 million, resulting in the removal of more than 25,000 low-income Manitobans from income tax rolls
  - raising minimum wage rates from $6 per hour in 1999 to $7.25 in April 2005
  - increasing by a further 20 per cent, the additional allowance to low-income households in remote northern areas
  - fully restoring the National Child Benefit Supplement for families on income assistance with children under 18 years of age, for a total of $13.7 million per year
  - providing increased support to single persons, childless couples, persons with disabilities and the aged on income assistance
  - increasing the value of earnings exemptions for families with children on income assistance
  - extending training supports from one year to two years for single parents with children under six on income assistance
  - committing $3 million in Budget 2005 for a new, integrated, portable, shelter benefit to provide lower- and modest-income households with financial stability to afford adequate housing
- Property tax reductions have saved Manitobans $142 million. Of particular benefit to low-income homeowners and renters was the increase in the Education Property Tax Credit maximum, from $525 to $675 for non-seniors and from $625 to $800 for seniors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further information on income initiatives can be found at:

www.gov.mb.ca/finance/taxation
www.gov.mb.ca/finance/fedprov/majortaxes.html
www.gov.mb.ca/finance/budget05/papers/index.html
www.gov.mb.ca/fs/assistance
www.statscanada.ca

EMPLOYMENT

IMPORTANCE TO MANITOBANS

A high level of employment for Manitobans is one of the keys to a healthy economy. Employment means more disposable income, which in turn helps to stimulate the economy.

The integration of social and economic policy is particularly important in the area of employment. A person's level of education affects his or her ability to find and keep jobs and increase earnings. As more families and individuals move into the paid labour market and their employment earnings increase, they gain greater independence from government assistance. Employment allows them to avoid or reduce the effects of living on low incomes.

The number of jobs has grown on average 7,200 per year, twice the average of the previous decade.

— Manitoba Budget 2005

TRENDS/KEY MEASURES

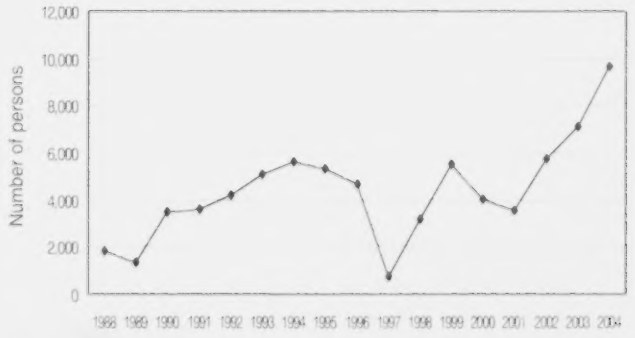
Manitoba's rates of employment and unemployment have been very positive in recent years compared to national trends and other areas of Canada.

Population Growth Rate

Employment levels in Manitoba depend in part on the number of persons in the province. As of January 1, 2005, the population of Manitoba was estimated at 1,174,164. In the last 12 months, the population of Manitoba grew by 9,700 persons, representing the highest absolute increase in the last twenty years.

The population growth is being driven by increased inflow of individuals to Manitoba. In 2004, Manitoba recorded a net inflow gain of 6,025 persons from other provinces and countries. The 6,025 gain was the largest inflow in at least thirty-three years. The 2004 year marked the third consecutive year of positive inflow, with approximately 11,000 more persons moving to the province. The Provincial Nominee Program is the single most important factor in the increasing population of the province.

FIGURE 1-9. **MANITOBA ANNUAL POPULATION GROWTH: JANUARY 1, 1988 TO JANUARY 1, 2005**



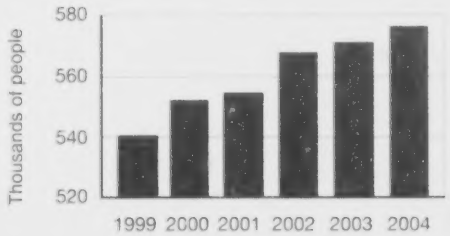
Source: Statistics Canada

Employment Rate

Since 1999, Manitoba employment has grown by 36,000 jobs, or an average increase of 7,200 per year. This increase is more than double the average growth of 2,700 in the 1990s. Manitoba's 2004 employment level increased 5,400 from 2003.

Manitoba's 2004 employment rate, which is the percentage of Manitobans age 15 and over who have paid employment or are self-employed, was 65.4 per cent, higher than the Canadian level of 62.7 per cent. Manitoba consistently registered the second highest provincial employment from 1999 to 2004. In the past five years, the employment rate has averaged 65 per cent which is 3.3 percentage points higher than the 61.7 per cent rate of the previous decade.

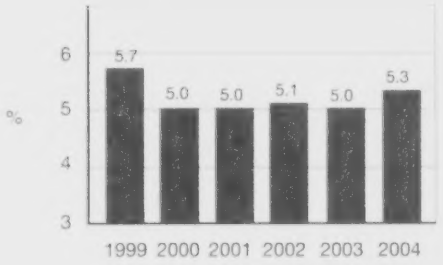
FIGURE 1-10. **MANITOBA TOTAL EMPLOYMENT 1999-2004 (THOUSANDS)**



Unemployment Rate

Manitoba's unemployment rate of 5.3 per cent for 2004 was significantly lower than Canada's 7.2 per cent. Manitoba consistently registered the lowest- or second-lowest unemployment rate from 1999 to 2004. The average unemployment rate since 1999 was 5.1 per cent. The average unemployment rate in the 1990s was 7.6 per cent.

FIGURE 1-11. **MANITOBA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE 1999 TO 2004 (PER CENT)**



RECENT ACTIONS ADDRESSING EMPLOYMENT

- **The Hydro Northern Training and Employment Initiative** is a five-year, $60.3 million partnership to prepare and train northern Aboriginal residents for employment opportunities on the proposed Wuskwatum and Keeyask hydroelectric generating stations. The partners include the governments of Manitoba and Canada, Manitoba Hydro and seven Aboriginal partners – Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, Tataskweyak Cree Nation, War Lake First Nation, Fox Lake Cree Nation, York Factory First Nation, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. and Manitoba Métis Federation Inc.
- **Apprenticeship** – New funding in 2005 for apprenticeship and certification in the designated trades will continue providing skilled employees for the province's labour market. Community-based apprenticeship learning will allow those who live in rural and northern areas of Manitoba to train in their home communities. For example, in 2004/05, five sections of carpenter apprenticeship training were delivered to 45 apprentices in four communities (Lake Manitoba, Chemawawin, Pinaymootang and Tataskwayak).

- **The Provincial Nominee Program (PNP)** recruits, screens and nominates skilled individuals and business people who meet employability and retention criteria for Manitoba's labour market. In 2004, 2,097 Provincial Nominee Program skilled worker and business applicants were approved (an increase of 20.1 per cent over 2003). This contributed to 4,037 nominees and their family members coming to Manitoba, a 30 per cent increase over 2003. Of these immigrants, 28 per cent settled in communities outside Winnipeg.
- **Industry Training Partnerships (ITP)** promotes and supports private sector involvement and investment in industry-wide, long-range human resource planning and development activities. It also links skills development with provincial economic development priorities. In 2004/05, ITP, along with its industry and labour partners, provided training and development strategies for over 10,000 Manitoba employees in a variety of leading industries.
- **The Advanced Manufacturing Initiative** is focused on two areas, lean thinking and human resource development. Through this effort up to 550 participants will be trained, ensuring that Manitoba's manufacturers will become more globally competitive, sustainable and successful. It will also give manufacturers access to leading edge technology, methods and procedures and best practices in human resource management and development.
- **Employment and Training Services** (ETS) offers services in 16 centres to help Manitobans prepare for, find and keep employment. ETS provides additional services through partnerships with community groups, employers and organizations. In 2004/05, ETS served almost 40,000 clients.
- **MB4Youth (Manitoba for Youth)** has 47 Manitoba Youth Job Centres throughout the province. Last year, 5,163 youth/students were matched with summer employment opportunities.
- **The Manitoba Film and Video Production Tax Credit Program** has helped foster growth in the film industry from $48 million in 1998/99 to $96.8 million in 2004/05. With a base tax rate of 45 per cent, as well as frequent filming and rural/northern bonuses, Manitoba now has one of the most attractive film tax credit programs in Canada.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further information on employment initiatives in Manitoba can be found at:

www.edu.gov.mb.ca/aet/ets2/jobs_careers.html

www.edu.gov.mb.ca/youth/Employers/ManitobaYouthJobCentres.html

www.mb.workinfonet.ca/

CATEGORY II: PEOPLE

CATEGORY II: PEOPLE

Manitoba's most valuable resource is its people. This government's priority is to promote the health, safety, education and well-being of all Manitobans so that they can be productive workers and active citizens. Reducing waiting times in the health care system remains a top priority. Services are being provided closer to home, new prevention initiatives are being implemented, more health professionals are being trained and more services are available in rural and northern areas. Manitoba's vision is for improved health care for all Manitobans.

Healthy populations start with healthy children. It has long been recognized that effective parenting is the single most important factor in the early years of a child's life. Manitoba families must be able to provide stable, supportive environments for their children. Young children should start school ready to learn. To help achieve this goal, the Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet was established and support to families and children has been increased significantly. Child care funding is up 64 per cent, providing 3,500 additional child care spaces since 1999.

Manitoba continues to work toward greater gender equity and equality in programs and services, including a number of new measures to address many of the barriers that prevent women from achieving full equality. For example, increased resources have been devoted in 2005 to family violence programs, child support, midwifery and critical family supports, as well as child care.

These efforts on all fronts are aimed at helping Manitobans to be healthy, secure, socially engaged, responsible citizens.

This section of the document presents two themes on Manitoba's priorities for the health and well-being of its people:

- health, which focuses on indicators of health status and access and quality of care
- early childhood development, which focuses on readiness for school and parent-child interaction.

The 2001 Census recorded 150,050 Aboriginal Manitobans, which represented 13.6 per cent of all Manitobans and 15.4 per cent of all the Aboriginal people in Canada.

HEALTH STATUS

IMPORTANCE TO MANITOBANS

The health and well-being of Manitobans is vital to ensuring a safe, secure, stable and productive society and is a top priority for the government. Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being – not merely an absence of disease or infirmity.

Manitoba's Comparable Health Indicators Report sets out a range of indicators on health status, and is a valuable reference. This section presents some of these indicators, as well as measures of self-reported health status, which strongly connect with actual health.

Other important factors contributing to the overall health and well-being of Manitobans are known as determinants of health. These include: employment/working conditions; education; income/socioeconomic status; healthy child development; personal health practices and coping skills; physical environment; social support networks; biology and genetic endowment; health services; gender; culture and social environment. Many of these determinants of health are discussed in other sections of this document, illustrating the connection between health and the environment, economy and social well-being.

Innovation and research are also part of the solution to improve health. Centres of excellence in Manitoba bring together top professionals and the latest medical technologies. These include new research and development sites for an Institute for Advanced Medicine, the Richardson Centre for Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals and the Centre for Commercialization of Biomedical Technologies.

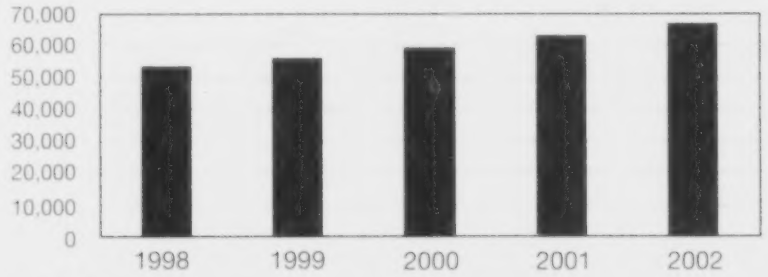
TRENDS/KEY MEASURES

Chronic Disease Rates

Chronic disease represents an important and growing burden on our population. The most common chronic diseases include cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma and mental illness.

In 2002, there were approximately 68,000 Manitobans living with diabetes (Figure 2-1). The number of First Nations people with diabetes more than doubled from 1989 to 1999. While diabetes is a growing problem, Manitoba's 68,000 cases equates

FIGURE 2-1. **ESTIMATED NUMBER OF MANITOBANS LIVING WITH DIABETES**



Source: Manitoba Diabetes Database

to a prevalence rate of 5.5 per 100,000 population, compared to the national rate of 4.8.

Since 1986, the incidence of breast cancer in Manitoba has stabilized and mortality rates have been trending downward. There is evidence that improved survival is due to organized breast screening. Manitoba has an organized breast screening program.

Mortality rates for colorectal cancer in Manitoba have been decreasing for both men and women, but more so for women.

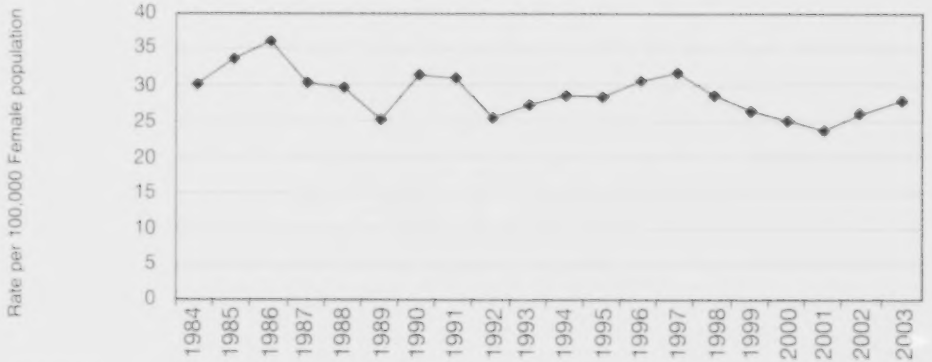
Self-Reported Health Status

Self-reported health status is a powerful indicator because it captures information that is otherwise difficult to obtain about an individual's psychological reserves and resilience. Self-reported health is also known to strongly correlate with actual health that has been measured by other means, such as death rates, the presence of diseases, such as cancer or diabetes, and general well-being.

Results of the Statistics Canada Canadian Community Health Survey (2003) indicate:

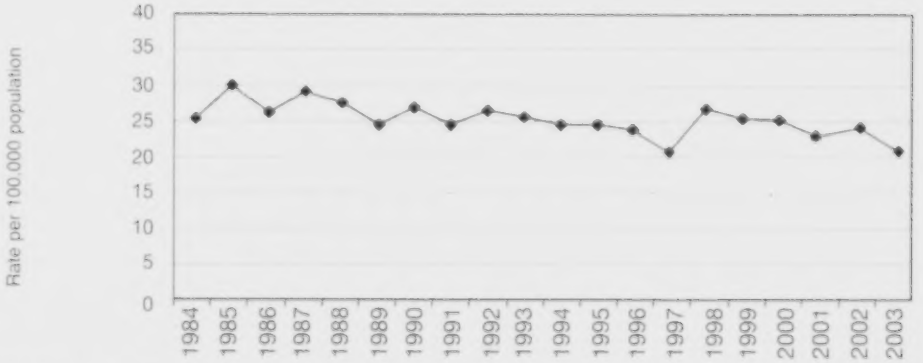
- 62 per cent of Manitobans rated their health as "very good" or "excellent"

FIGURE 2-2. **BREAST CANCER STANDARDIZED MORTALITY RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION, MANITOBA FEMALES (ALL AGES)**



Source: Public Health Agency of Canada and CancerCare Manitoba

FIGURE 2-3. **COLON RECTUM CANCER STANDARDIZED MORTALITY RATE PER 100,000 POPULATION MANITOBA, ALL AGES, BOTH SEXES**



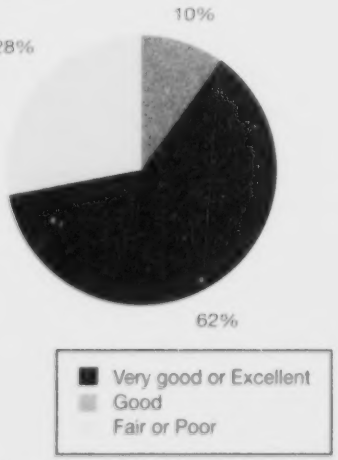
Source: Public Health Agency of Canada and CancerCare Manitoba

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Life expectancy at birth – in Manitoba and Canada – continues to rise. Since 1979, it has risen by three to four years.

A female child born in Manitoba in 2001 can expect to live an average of 81.6 years and a male child, an average of 75.7 years. However, men have begun to narrow this gap. The difference between the life expectancy of female and male babies born in 1979 was, on average, 7.5 years. By 2001, the gap had narrowed to about six years.

FIGURE 2-4. **SELF REPORTED HEALTH OF MANITOBANS**



Source: Statistics Canada

- 28 per cent of Manitobans rated their health as "good"
- 10 per cent of Manitobans rated their health as "fair" or "poor"

A significantly higher proportion of Manitoba females reported their health as "very good" or "excellent" compared to Manitoba males.

While a greater proportion of Manitobans rated their health as "very good" or "excellent" compared to Canada overall (62 per cent versus 60 per cent), there was no significant difference in the proportion that rated their health "fair" or "poor." It should be noted that this survey did not include registered First Nations people on reserves.

RECENT ACTIONS ADDRESSING HEALTH STATUS

With the creation of the provincial government's Healthy Living portfolio, Manitoba is placing greater emphasis on a balance between health care and illness prevention. Healthy Living promotes healthy lifestyles and injury and disease prevention, which help improve the health status of Manitobans. Seven priority areas have been identified: injury prevention; chronic disease prevention; healthy eating; increasing physical activity; mental health promotion and substance abuse reduction; tobacco reduction; and healthy sexuality.

Actions taken by the provincial government to promote healthy living include:

- Implementing a multi-year Tobacco Control Strategy that addresses the four nationally identified goals: prevention; protection; cessation; and de-normalization.
- Implementing the Chronic Disease Prevention Initiative, a citizen/community-led, evidence-based primary prevention initiative to reduce chronic diseases, such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer.
- Initiating the development of the Regional Diabetes Program (RDP), a comprehensive province-wide initiative targeting health care providers, as well as people with, or at risk for, Type-2 diabetes.
- Implementing the Risk Factor and Complication Assessment Program (a priority component of RDP), a train the trainer program offering health care providers with leading knowledge and skills to aid in the assessment of the

risk factors associated with Type-2 diabetes and its complications.

- Launching the all-party task force, Healthy Kids Healthy Futures, which held a series of public hearings throughout Manitoba to examine issues of physical activity, nutrition and unintentional injury and how to keep children and youth active and healthy now, and in their adult lives.
- Expanding the immunization program with three new vaccines for children and free influenza vaccines for infants aged six to 23 months and adults over age 65.
- Expanding the province's capacity to respond to new and emerging health care threats, such as SARS, West Nile Virus and pandemic influenza.
- Establishing the Northern and Aboriginal Population Health and Wellness Institute with various stakeholders, such as First Nations, Manitoba Métis Federation, Regional Health Authorities and the federal government.
- Developing and implementing recommendations to improve the health status of First Nations in Manitoba by participating in the Romanow Joint Working Group, which includes provincial, federal and Aboriginal levels of government.
- Increased resources throughout the province to promote awareness and understanding of healthy sexual practices to reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and chlamydia.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further information about health status and healthy living for Manitobans can be found at:

Manitoba Health: **www.gov.mb.ca/health/**

Manitoba Healthy Living: **www.gov.mb.ca/healthyliving/**

Comparable Health Indicators Report 2004: **www.gov.mb.ca/health/pirc/index.html**

Report on *Injuries in Manitoba: A 10-Year Review*: **www.gov.mb.ca/healthyliving/injuryreview.html#appendices**

Manitoba Centre for Health Policy: **www.umanitoba.ca/centres/mchp/**

Canadian Institute for Health Information: **www.cihi.ca**

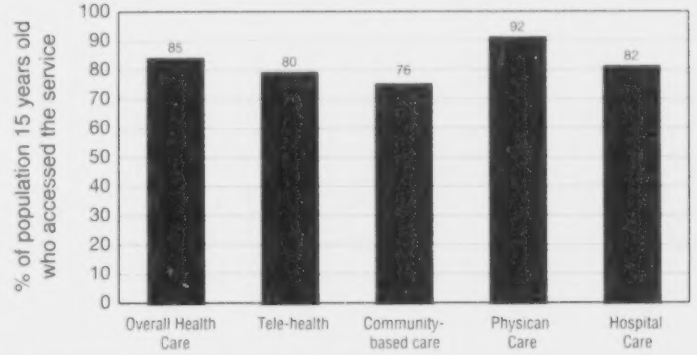
Statistics Canada: **www.statcan.ca**

ACCESS AND QUALITY OF CARE

IMPORTANCE TO MANITOBANS

The health of a population is affected by a variety of social, environmental and economic factors. One key determinant of health is access to quality health services for the prevention, early detection and treatment of illness. Key factors include: the appropriateness of available health services; their effectiveness in maintaining and improving health; the efficiency with which they are delivered; and the responsiveness of the health system to adapt to changing demands.

FIGURE 2-5. **AGE-STANDARDIZED PER CENT OF POPULATION WHO REPORTED QUALITY OF CARE AS EXCELLENT OR GOOD, MANITOBA 2003**



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey, 2003

TRENDS/KEY MEASURES

Patient-Perceived Quality of Care

How patients perceive quality of health care results, in part, from their experiences with the health care system. This measure of quality may be different from clinical measures of quality, which are based on clinical effectiveness and appropriateness.

A 2003 Statistics Canada Survey on Canadian Community Health showed the following for Manitoba:

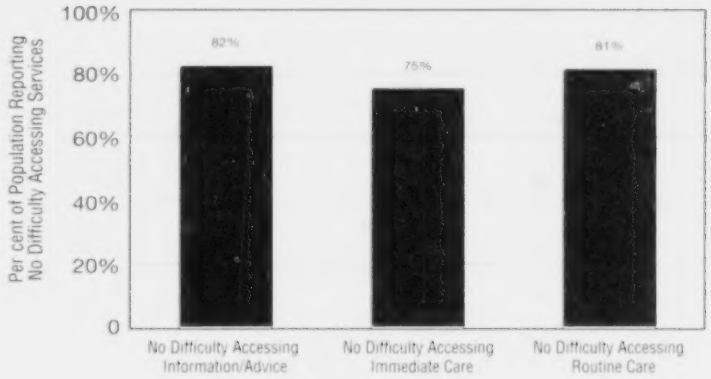
- 85 per cent of Manitobans rated the quality of overall health care received to be "excellent" or "good"
- 80 per cent of Manitobans rated the quality of tele-health services received to be "excellent" or"good"
- 92 per cent of Manitobans rated the quality of physician care received to be "excellent" or "good"
- 82 per cent of Manitobans rated the quality of hospital care received to be "excellent" or "good"

There was no statistically significant difference between the rates reported for men and women, or the overall rates reported for Manitoba and Canada.
The proportion of Manitobans who rated overall health care as "excellent" or "good" increased by five per cent, from 80 per cent in 2000 to 85 per cent in 2003, a statistically significant increase.

Population Having Difficulty Obtaining Services

The percentage of the population having difficulty obtaining services is a measure of

FIGURE 2-6. **AGE STANDARDIZED PER CENT OF POPULATION REPORTING NO DIFFICULTY ACCESSING SERVICES**



Source: Statistics Canada, Health Access Survey, 2003

access to health services. The Statistics Canada 2003 Health Services Access Survey showed the following results for Manitoba:

- 82 per cent of Manitobans reported having no difficulty accessing health information or advice
- 75 per cent of Manitobans reported having no difficulty accessing immediate care
- 81 per cent of Manitobans reported having no difficulty accessing routine care

There was no statistically significant difference between the overall rates reported for Manitoba and Canada.

Over the past five years, Manitoba has seen significant decreases in key waiting times and increases in the number of diagnostic tests performed. The average waiting time for radiation treatment for most cancers has been reduced from six weeks to about one week. Manitobans waiting for cardiac surgery is down by more than half. Since 1998/99, the number of CT scans performed has more than doubled and the number of MRI tests performed has more than tripled.

RECENT ACTIONS ADDRESSING ACCESS AND QUALITY OF CARE

- Waiting time reduction initiatives implemented since 1999 have resulted in:
  - improved information services through the Family Doctor Connection Program, expansion of Health Links and access to waiting time information for the general public on the Manitoba Health website
  - expansion of day surgery and outpatient diagnostics to free up hospital beds
  - investment in new diagnostic equipment for all regions of the province
  - expanded use of rural diagnostic equipment and operating theatres
  - renewed nursing workforce to supply nurses where they are needed
- The provincial government is working toward meaningful reductions in waiting times by 2007 in five priority areas identified by Canada's premiers: cancer, heart, diagnostic imaging, joint replacements and sight restoration. Current activity in each priority area is as follows:
  - Cancer: Established 18 disease site groups that create a

SUSTAINABLE NURSING WORKFORCE

Ensuring a sustainable workforce for Manitoba's health care system is critical to improving health care. The provincial government has recognized that nurses are an essential element to provide better and more accessible health care.

Since being announced in 2000, the Manitoba Nursing Strategy has successfully increased the number of nurses in the health care system. Nursing education programs have been substantially expanded. As a result, total enrolments in nursing education programs have doubled and these programs continue to be full. The number of nursing graduates has more than tripled since 1999. The total number of active practicing nurses in Manitoba has increased by 1,204 between 1999 and 2004.

In addition, the scope of care nurses can provide to patients has been expanded, in some cases allowing them to order tests and prescribe drugs. Steps have been taken to increase nurses' access to continuing education, improve their working conditions and create more opportunities to involve nurses in decisions affecting their careers and the health care system.

multidisciplinary approach to helping patients dealing with cancer; established the Urban Primary Care Oncology Network; invested in new equipment; and training of more radiation therapists. The network of sites across Manitoba providing chemotherapy treatment for cancer patients continues to be expanded.

- Cardiac: Meeting recommendations of the 2003 Koshal Report; consolidation of cardiac surgery in St. Boniface General Hospital; establishing waiting list coordinators; and purchase of new equipment.
- Cataracts: Consolidated surgery; centralized waiting list program; and increased provincial capacity by expansion of the cataract surgery program.
- Hips and Knees: Established the Provincial Network of Orthopedic Surgeons to promote the exchange of information; created a centre of excellence for hip and knee surgery at Concordia Hospital; established hip/knee wait list coordinators; further investment in new equipment; and increasing capacity by 1,000 procedures over the next two years.
- Diagnostics: In 2002, Diagnostic Services of Manitoba was established to undertake all provincial laboratory services and rural and northern imaging services, control costs and improve patient care in Manitoba. Rural diagnostic capabilities have been expanded through investments in new equipment (e.g., MRI, CT) and in human resources (e.g., ultrasound training program and nuclear medicine technologists).

- A number of primary health care reform initiatives have been set up:
  - Since 2003, 17 new primary health care initiatives have been implemented, 14 in rural and northern Manitoba. These rural and northern investments improved access and service delivery, shifting the emphasis away from acute care toward health promotion and early intervention.

- Support continues for the Winnipeg Integrated Services Initiative, shifting health and social services to a community access model. This initiative creates access centres, such as Access River East. Access centres provide a range of services including: primary care, community mental health, home care, employment and income assistance, employment services for persons with disabilities and children's special services.
- The Farm and Rural Stress Line has been set up to help farmers and people living in rural communities deal with stress and other mental health issues.
- The Advanced Practice Nursing Regulation (Extended Practice Regulation) is in place and the role of nurse practitioners has been expanded. Nurse practitioners are being used in primary health care teams to enhance care and improve access.

• Steps taken to improve and strengthen human resources include:

- The Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba is continuing to be expanded. By September 2006, it is expected there will be 30 more seats than in 1999.
- As of April 2004, there were 139 more physicians licensed to practice in Manitoba than in 1999.
- A nursing strategy was created to increase the supply of nurses, improve the quality of work life, support continuing education and enhance nurses' decision making. Examples include providing a conditional grant through the Nurse Recruitment and Retention Fund and Licensed Practical Nurse to Registered Nurse upgrading in rural Manitoba.
- Strategic training initiatives have been identified and funded for allied health professionals such as the Rural X-ray and Lab Assistant Cross Training Program.

• Additional investments toward improving access and quality of care have been implemented, such as:

- The Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety was established in May 2004 to address patient safety and quality issues in Manitoba.
- The Northern and Rural Renal Advisory Committee (co-chaired by the Manitoba Renal Program and Regional Health Authorities) was established to facilitate the delivery of dialysis in local centres throughout the province.
- Significant investments have been made in new technologies and equipment, such as linear accelerators at CancerCare Manitoba, diagnostic equipment in rural and urban settings and modernization of many health care facilities around the province.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further information about access and quality of health care for Manitoba can be found at:

Manitoba Health: **www.gov.mb.ca/health/**

Manitoba Centre for Health Policy: **www.umanitoba.ca/centres/mchp/**

Canadian Institute for Health Information: **www.cihi.ca**

Statistics Canada: **www.statcan.ca**

READINESS FOR SCHOOL

IMPORTANCE TO MANITOBANS

Manitobans understand that it is important for young children to feel welcome, comfortable and safe when they start school. Establishing a strong foundation for children before they start school is important for successful lifelong health and learning, as well as for the province's future well-being and economic prosperity. Early childhood development continues to be a top provincial priority and has been highlighted in every Throne Speech and Budget Speech since April 2000.

TRENDS/KEY MEASURES

Information on readiness for school is based on the Early Development Instrument (EDI). The EDI is a standard measure that shows how ready children are to start school. In Kindergarten, teachers from participating school divisions complete the EDI for all of their students to measure how well communities have prepared children for school entry and predict how successful children might be as they go to other grades.

The EDI measures five areas of early childhood development:

- physical health and well-being
- social competency
- emotional maturity
- language and cognitive development
- communication skills and general knowledge

During the first year of implementation in 2002/03, 24 of 38 school divisions (about 8,000 Kindergarten students) completed the EDI. In 2003/04, 28 of 38 divisions (about 8,500 students) completed it. For the 2004/05 school year, 31 of 38 school divisions have completed the EDI. These results will be available in the 2005 Early Childhood Development Progress Report to Manitobans. By 2006/07, the goal is to have all Manitoba school divisions (about 12,000 students) using the EDI on an ongoing basis. This will help measure the effectiveness of Manitoba's investments in early childhood development.

READINESS FOR SCHOOL: FIVE AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT

Physical Health and Well-Being includes:

- being properly dressed for the weather
- getting enough sleep
- having enough good food
- using the washroom independently
- holding a pencil or crayon properly
- having energy to play throughout the day
- playing comfortably with puzzles

Social Competency includes:

- getting along with other children
- following rules and instructions
- demonstrating self-control
- solving some problems by themselves
- adjusting to changes in routine
- tolerating someone making a mistake
- respecting others

Emotional Maturity includes:

- helping other children if they are hurt
- showing empathy to others
- offering to help other children with a task
- trying to stop a quarrel or dispute among their peers
- inviting others to join in a game or activity

Language and Cognitive Development includes:

- showing interest in books
- knowing some letters of the alphabet
- recognizing numbers and being able to count
- printing their own name and other words
- knowing shapes and colours
- remembering things easily

Communication Skills and General Knowledge includes:

- telling a story
- playing imaginatively
- communicating needs to adults and other children in understandable ways

Readiness for School

EDI results show most children (72 to 74 per cent) in Manitoba and Canada are ready for school. However, significant numbers of children, about one in four, are not ready to start school. EDI shows similar percentages of children in Manitoba and Canada were not ready to learn at school entry in 2002/03 (about 28 per cent in Manitoba and 26 per cent in Canada) and 2003/04 (about 28 per cent and 27 per cent respectively).

It appears the percentage of Manitoba children who are not ready for school varies with socioeconomic status: 35 per cent for lower-income families, 21 per cent for middle-income families, and 15 per cent for higher-income families. However, when these percentages are translated into actual numbers of children, the majority (55 per cent) of the children who are not ready to start school are from middle- and higher-income families, because most Manitoba children live in these families.

Children who are not ready for school can be found in every community and every kind of family in Manitoba. A "best policy mix" of universal, targeted and clinical

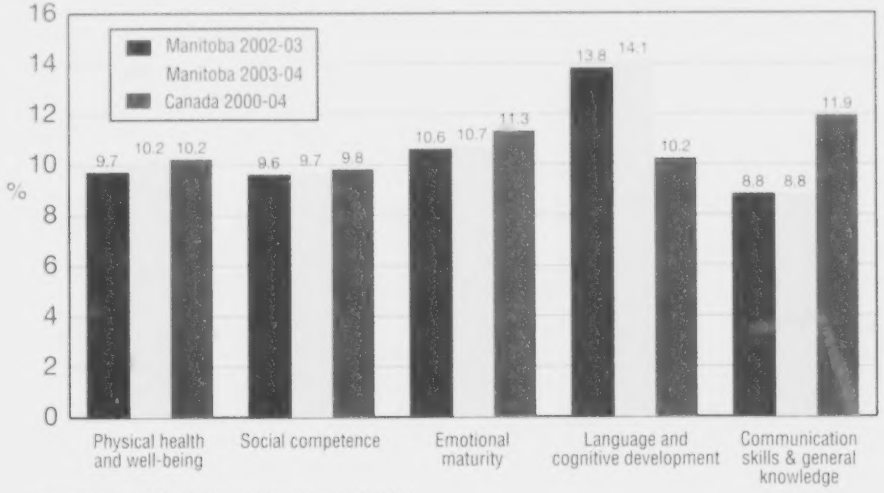
programs is needed to reach all children who need extra support for school readiness.

Of the five areas of early childhood development measured by the EDI, similar percentages of Kindergarten children in Manitoba and Canada were not ready to start school in terms of their physical health and well-being (about ten per cent), social competence (about ten per cent) and emotional maturity (about 11 per cent).

However, results show that Manitoba children differed from Canadian norms on two areas of early childhood development. First, a larger percentage of Manitoba children were not ready for school in terms of their language and cognitive or thinking development (about 14 per cent), compared to Canada (about ten per cent). This represents a challenge for Manitoba. A smaller percentage of Manitoba children were not ready for school in terms of their communication skills and general knowledge (about nine per cent) compared to Canada (about 12 per cent). This represents a strength for Manitoba.

The overall school readiness of Manitoba's children is comparable to Canadian norms (including early physical, social and emotional development) and exceeds national norms for early communication skills and general knowledge. However, further improvement is needed in children's early language and cognitive development. Further, there are significant socioeconomic inequalities in children's readiness for school. Reducing these inequalities is a top priority for Manitoba. Investing in early childhood development is the best way to improve the overall quality of Manitoba's future population.

FIGURE 2-7. **EARLY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (EDI): PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN "NOT READY TO LEARN AT SCHOOL ENTRY" IN EACH AREA OF DEVELOPMENT, AGE 5, MANITOBA AND CANADA**



Source: Healthy Child Manitoba Office and Offord Centre for Child Studies

RECENT ACTIONS ADDRESSING READINESS FOR SCHOOL

- Since April 2000, Manitoba has invested over $64 million in new funding for early childhood development. Of this total, $18.3 million was contributed by the federal government.

- Each initiative in Manitoba's Early Childhood Development Strategy contributes to improving children's readiness for school:
  - There are 26 Parent-Child Coalitions serving families by providing parenting, nutrition and literacy information, and community supports in every region across the province. In 2005/06, $3 million has been allocated for this program.
  - The Healthy Baby program (which includes the Manitoba Prenatal Benefit and Healthy Baby Community Support Programs) is serving over 4,000 families province-wide each year with nutrition and social supports. In 2005/06, $4.8 million has been in allocated for this program.
  - The Families First home visiting program is serving over 1,000 families province-wide each year. In 2005/06, $9 million has been allocated for this program.
  - The Child Day Care Program and the Five-Year Plan for Child Care in Manitoba is ensuring universal, accessible, affordable, high quality, early childhood education and care. In 2005/06, $78.8 million has been allocated for this program, up 64 per cent since 1999.
  - Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth's Early Childhood Development Initiative is helping children get ready to enter school in every school division province-wide.
  - The Triple P – Positive Parenting Program has recently been implemented with an investment of $1.4 million in 2005/06.
- School readiness is a shared policy priority of the Healthy Child Manitoba Office and the partner departments of the Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet, which includes the Ministers responsible for: Aboriginal and Northern Affairs; Culture, Heritage and Tourism; Education, Citizenship and Youth; Family Services and Housing; Health; Healthy Living; Justice; and the Status of Women.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further information on the early childhood development strategy is available at: **www.gov.mb.ca/healthychild/ecd/index.html**

Further information on readiness for school can be found at:

Healthy Child Manitoba: **www.gov.mb.ca/healthychild**

Offord Centre for Child Studies: **www.offordcentre.com/readiness/index.html**

Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development: **www.excellence-earlychildhood.ca**

Canadian Language and Literacy Research Network: **www.cllrnet.ca**

PARENT-CHILD INTERACTION

IMPORTANCE TO MANITOBANS

Parents and families are the primary influences in the lives of children. Research shows that positive family interaction, including positive parenting, reading with children and positive family functioning, is the most important factor of successful early childhood development.

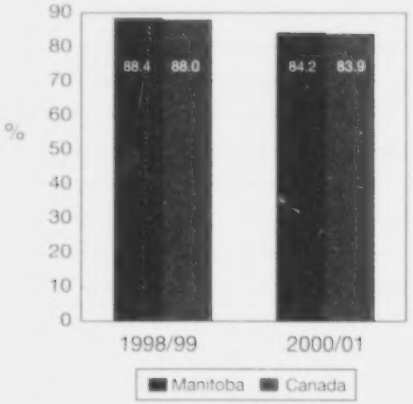
TRENDS/KEY MEASURES

Presented below are 1998/99 and 2000/01 data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY). The survey measures positive family interaction at provincial and national levels. While data is currently only available up to 2000/01, Statistics Canada is in the process of preparing 2002/03 data for Manitoba's forthcoming 2005 Early Childhood Development Progress Report. It is important to note that Aboriginal children, immigrant children and children with disabilities are under represented in the NLSCY sample.

Positive Parenting

Positive parenting refers to warm, positive, engaging interaction between parents and children including praising, playing, reading and doing special activities together. Most children in Manitoba and Canada (between 84 to 88 per cent) live in families with positive parenting.

FIGURE 2-8. **PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES WITH POSITIVE PARENTING (CHILDREN AGES 0-5 YEARS), MANITOBA AND CANADA**

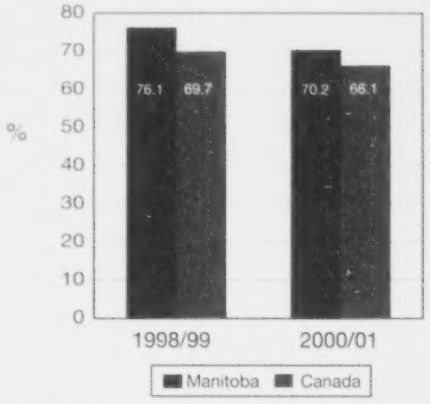


Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY)

Reading with Children

Parents reading with children occurs daily for the majority of children in Manitoba. Daily reading is slightly more common in Manitoba (about 70 to 76 per cent), compared to Canada (about 66 to 70 per cent). The 2000/01 data included children between the ages of 0-5 while the 1998/99 data included children between the ages of 2-5. Given that fewer parents read to their newborn or one-year-old child, the percentage of parents who read daily with their children in 2000/01 is lower.

FIGURE 2-9. **PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES WITH DAILY PARENT – CHILD READING (CHILDREN AGES 0-5 YEARS), MANITOBA AND CANADA**

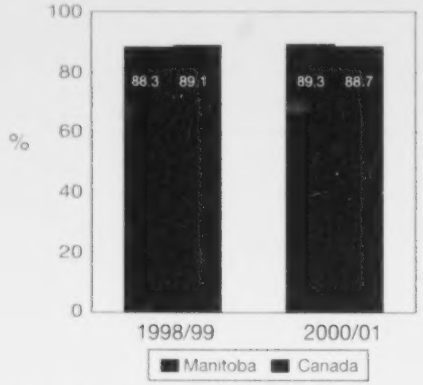


Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY)

Family Functioning

Family functioning refers to how well family members relate to and communicate with one another, including their ability to solve problems together. The majority of children ages 0 to 5 (between 88 and 89 per cent) in Manitoba and Canada are growing up in families with positive family functioning.

FIGURE 2-10. **PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES WITH POSITIVE FAMILY FUNCTIONING (CHILDREN AGES 0-5 YEARS), MANITOBA AND CANADA**



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Most children in Manitoba experience positive family interaction during their first years of life. At the same time, between 11 and 30 per cent of approximately 90,000 children under age six in Manitoba could benefit from additional improvements in positive parenting, reading with their parents and family functioning.

RECENT ACTIONS ADDRESSING PARENT-CHILD INTERACTION

- In 2005/06, $3 million has been allocated for 26 Parent-Child Coalitions serving families in every region across the province.
- The Healthy Baby program, which includes the Manitoba Prenatal Benefit and Healthy Baby Community Support Programs, serves over 4,000 families province-wide each year. In 2005/06, $4.8 million has been allocated for this program.
- The Families First home visiting program serves over 1,000 families province-wide each year. In 2005/06, $5.8 million has been allocated for this program. New evaluation results show the Families First program has increased positive parent-child interaction in participating families.
- Most recently, Manitoba launched the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program, a $1.4 million investment (see inset box).

TRIPLE P – POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM

On March 21, 2005, the provincial government announced support of $1.4 million to implement the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program. Partnerships will be developed with community agencies, regional health authorities, child care centres, family resource centres, school divisions, pediatricians, and others on this new approach to supporting Manitoba's parents.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further information on the early childhood development strategy can be found at: **www.gov.mb.ca/healthychild/ecd/index.html**

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Triple P: **www.triplep.net**

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PARENT-CHILD INTERACTION

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Parents and families are the primary influences in the lives of children. Research shows that positive family interaction, including positive parenting, reading with children and positive family functioning, is the most important factor of successful early childhood development.

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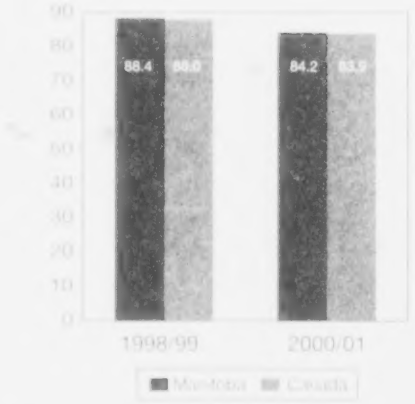

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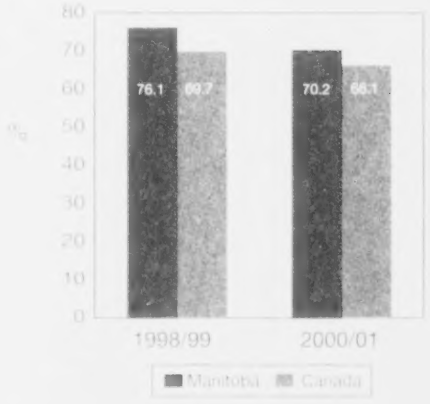

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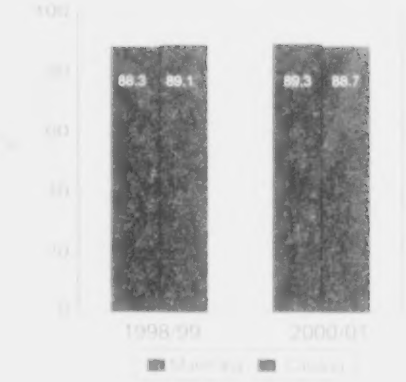

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CATEGORY III: COMMUNITY

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All Manitoba communities – urban, rural and northern – are vital to the overall quality of life in our province. Each has its unique history and traditions, advantages and opportunities. Each is strengthened by the contributions, commitment and participation of its citizens.

Strong communities are built on basic elements of infrastructure, involvement and inclusion. Manitobans are actively directing the future of their communities and working towards a shared vision of social, economic and environmental success. The vision, skills, determination and commitment of Manitobans to their communities are the foundation of our provincial prosperity and growth.

Record amounts are being invested in Manitoba's communities. Our urban communities are being revitalized through such initiatives as the new MTS Centre, the expansion of the Red River Floodway, the Millennium Library and upgrades to the Keystone Centre and the Westman Regional Labs. Hydro projects are proceeding in northern Manitoba. Grassroots partnerships, such as Neighbourhoods Alive!, the Affordable Housing Initiative, the Winnipeg Partnership Agreement and the Northern Development Strategy are driving communities forward. Major initiatives are underway to ensure Aboriginal people are fully included in the opportunities available to Manitobans.

Substantial amounts are also being invested in people. Major initiatives are underway to ensure Aboriginal people are fully included in the opportunities available to Manitobans. Citizen-driven initiatives are forging the futures of our communities. A range of services have been put in place to allow adults with a mental disability to live in the community.

This section of the report presents two themes on Manitoba's priorities for communities:

- building communities, which focuses on indicators of citizen involvement and community development
- social support, which focuses on indicators of safe communities and housing

> *The challenge of managing growth into the future includes the ability to meet the needs of each community and each sector of our economy. More broadly, it means a commitment to those strategies that have helped citizens to seize and make the most of their opportunities.**
>
> **— Speech from the Throne, November 22, 2004**

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

IMPORTANCE TO MANITOBANS

The foundation of a vibrant and inclusive society is its citizens. The strength of a society comes from the willingness of individuals to participate in the community, from neighbourhood projects to local events to national organizations. People working together in neighbourhoods and across the province build pride, empowerment and a sense of belonging.

TRENDS/KEY MEASURES

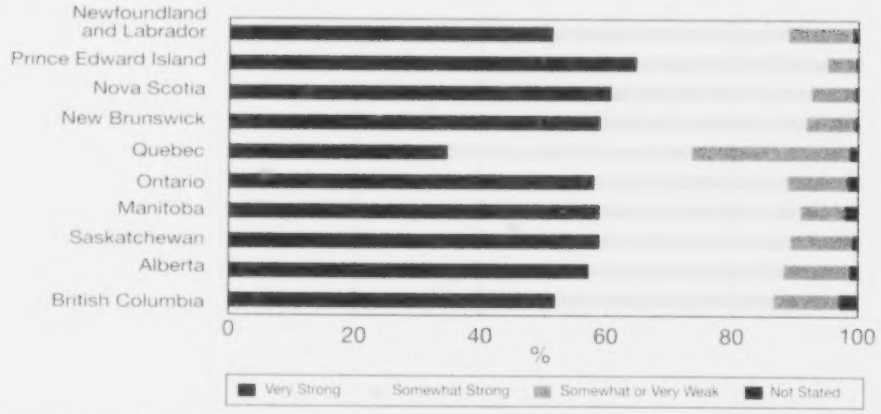
Sense of Belonging

Manitobans show a very strong connection to their communities. A 2003 Statistics Canada survey shows Manitoba has the fourth highest percentage of individuals who described their sense of belonging to Canada (91 per cent) as "very strong" or "somewhat strong."

Involvement in Community Organizations

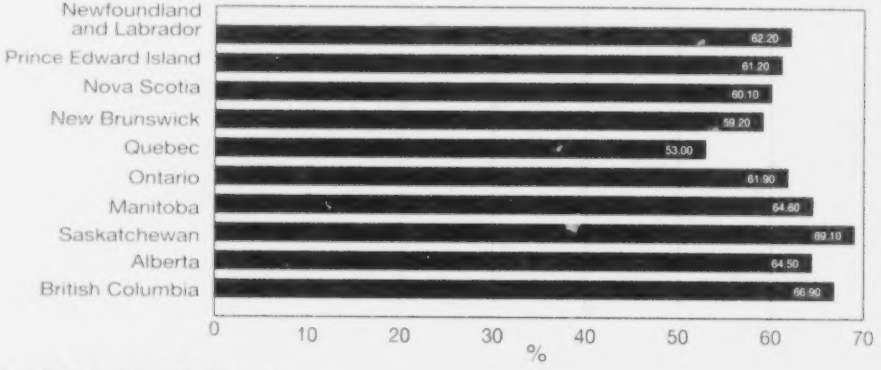
Manitoba has the third highest percentage of individuals reporting they are involved in at least one organization. This is a strong indication of commitment and involvement in local communities.

FIGURE 3-1. **HOW CANADIANS DESCRIBE THEIR SENSE OF BELONGING TO CANADA, BY PROVINCE OF RESIDENCE, 2003**



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2003

FIGURE 3-2. **PERCENTAGE OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN AT LEAST ONE ORGANIZATION, BY PROVINCE, CANADA, 2003**

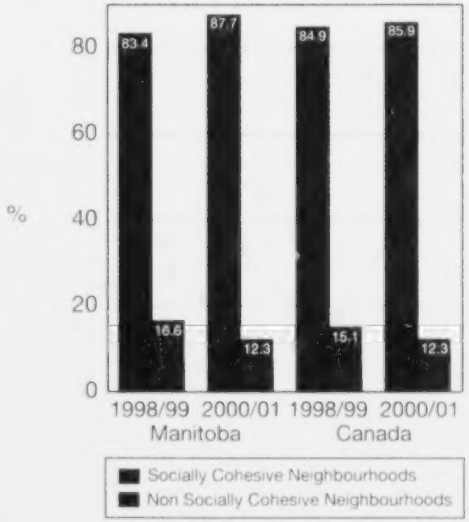


Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 2003

Neighbourhood Cohesiveness

Neighbourhood social cohesion is the willingness of neighbours to get together to solve problems, the presence of adults in the neighbourhood that children can look up to and the willingness of neighbours to help one another and watch out for the well-being of children in the community.

FIGURE 3-3. **NEIGHBOURHOOD COHESIVENESS 1998/99 AND 2000/01**



Source: National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth

MANITOBANS ARE CHARITABLE

Manitobans are renowned for their sense of volunteerism and for their generous involvement with charities. More Manitobans give to charities than the national average and their average gift is also more than the national average. Income tax data indicate in 2003, the average deduction claimed by Manitobans for charitable donations was $1,308.51, higher than the national average of $1,204.21. The average donation by Manitobans increased by 12.52 per cent between 2002 and 2003, compared with a national increase of 9.75 per cent.

A little over 28 per cent of Manitobans claimed a deduction for a charitable contribution, compared to the national average of 24.56 per cent in 2003. Interestingly, the 2000 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating (Statistics Canada) reports a higher donor rate, noting that only 45 per cent of all respondents indicated they, or someone else in their household, intended to claim a tax credit for charitable donations they made; this suggests the 2003 data may understate the extent of charitable giving. The 2000 study showed that 84 per cent of all Manitobans made a financial donation to at least one charitable organization, an increase from 81 per cent in 1997. In both cases, giving by Manitobans was higher than the national average of 78 per cent. The study also found that donors are more likely than non-donors to volunteer and belong to an organization and the likelihood increases with the amount given.

In 1998/99 and 2000/01, the majority of families with young children in both Manitoba and Canada (84 to 88 per cent) reported they lived in socially cohesive neighbourhoods.

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

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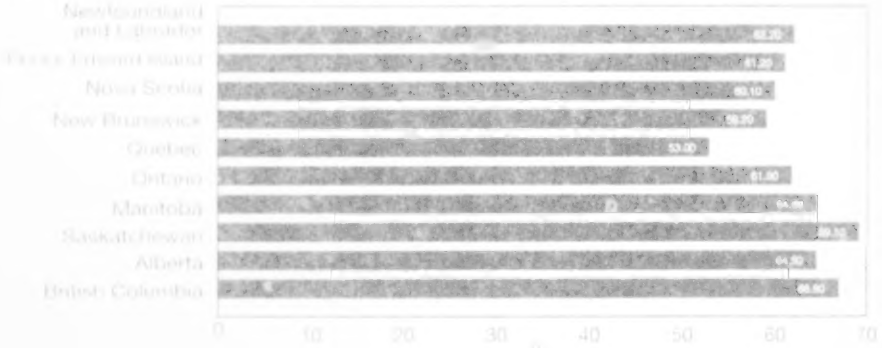

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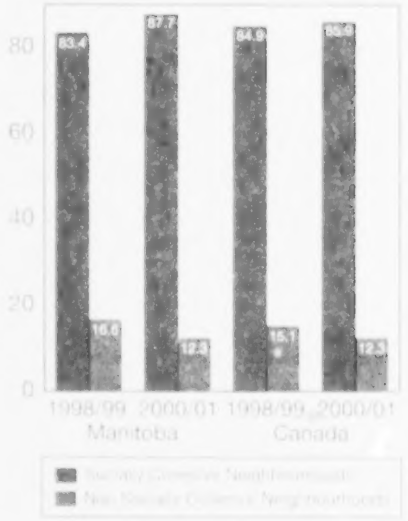

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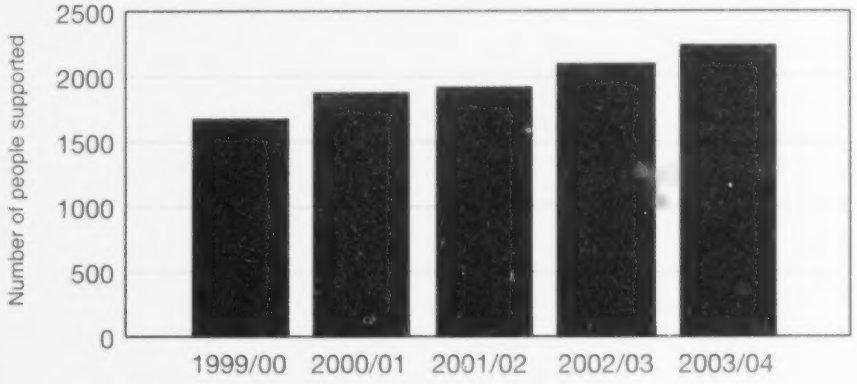
Adults with Disabilities

Community living for persons living with a mental disability has been a priority. Between 1999/00 and 2003/04, the number of residents in developmental centres has declined by 16 per cent, while the number of people supported in community supported living residences has increased by 33 per cent.

Citizen Satisfaction with Government Services

Since 1998, the Institute for Citizen-Centred Service has been measuring the satisfaction of citizens with the services provided by Canada's federal, provincial and municipal governments. The data indicate Manitobans' overall assessment of the quality of provincial services has been increasing since the survey began. Manitoba's score in 1998 was 64 out of 100, rising to 66 in 2000 and 68 in 2002. Manitoba's score has been consistently higher than the average of provincial services across the country (62 in 2000 and 64 in 2002).

FIGURE 3-4. **NUMBER OF PEOPLE SUPPORTED IN COMMUNITY LIVING RESIDENCES**



Source: Manitoba Family Services and Housing

RECENT ACTIONS ADDRESSING CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

- Manitoba is the only province in Canada where the provincial government pays the administration costs of all United Ways in the province. As a result, every dollar donated by Manitobans goes entirely to funding important community services. The 15 United Ways in Manitoba received funding increases of $454,800 in 2004/05 and $267,100 in 2005/06, bringing total annual operating grants to almost $3 million. This financial support from the Manitoba government results in more effective charitable giving by Manitobans and promotes greater involvement as volunteers.

- For the past several years, Rural Forum has included meetings with community leaders to discuss ways to strengthen the voluntary sector in rural areas. Each year the Lieutenant-Governor's Make a Difference Community Awards are presented for contributions to the community through voluntary services. The Premier's Volunteer Service Award honours the efforts and dedication of outstanding individuals, youth and community groups in Manitoba. Ten awards were presented in 2005.
- Community Access Centres bring together a wide variety of health and social services in one, convenient community location. These centres will provide a one-stop source of service and information and supports community activity and development.
- Most Child and Family Services are being run by the Aboriginal community, as recommended by the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry. The result is more community-driven, culturally appropriate services.
- The Manitoba government was one of the first jurisdictions in Canada to appoint a Minister responsible for Persons with Disabilities in 2000. A white paper released in 2001, entitled *Full Citizenship: A Manitoba Provincial Strategy on Disability*, commits the government to improving access to government, employment and income supports for people with disabilities.
- In 2002, the government established a Disabilities Issues Office to serve as a centre responsible for the coordination of disability policy, independent of the provincial departments providing programs to persons with disabilities.
- Under the Employment Strategy for Persons with Disabilities, announced in September 2004, the government works with the community and other stakeholders to further enable people with disabilities to actively participate in the labour force.
- The budget for support for adults with a mental disability living in the community has increased by over $80 million, or 132 per cent, since 1999/00. A developmental centre was closed in 2000 and a steering committee has been appointed to accelerate the transition of residents of the Manitoba Developmental Centre into the community.
- Over $17 million has been allocated for 2005/06 to expand community living supports.
- **At Your Service Manitoba** is an initiative to improve Manitobans' access to government information and services. It is based on the philosophy that it is the job of all government employees, at every level, to help citizens find what they need.
- **Growing Opportunities** represents a realignment of programs and services to help strengthen the rural economy and the agricultural sector's position in national and international markets. It is based on consultations with the industry and communities and will result in enhanced service across the province.

- **Health Links/Info Santé** provides access at all hours to professionally trained nurses. This allows Manitobans to obtain health advice quickly and, in many cases, avoid a trip to a hospital emergency room.
- A number of community-driven programs help people work collectively to address community issues. The result is community decision making and healthy, economically viable communities. For example:
  - **Neighbourhoods Alive!** is a provincial social and economic development initiative that coordinates programs and services to support community efforts in revitalizing designated neighbourhoods in need in Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson.
  - **Community Choices** is a program that supports the formation of community round tables, bringing together community leaders to define a community vision statement and develop a strategy that reflects the priorities of communities.
  - **The Aboriginal Partnership Committee** is made up of key Aboriginal members from the business, social and academic communities. Its goals are to review and recommend projects with the participation of the Aboriginal community for the Aboriginal component of the Winnipeg Partnership Agreement. All projects approved by the committee are geared towards improving the economic, social and health and wellness status of the Aboriginal community in Winnipeg.
  - The **Hometown Manitoba** program provides rural and northern communities, non-profit organizations and businesses financial assistance on a cost-shared basis to improve rural and northern main street meeting places, exterior public places and green spaces. In 2004, 175 projects, valued at more than $300,000, were approved and the communities and businesses involved contributed an additional $827,000. A further 190 community improvement projects have been approved so far in 2005, sharing over $350,000 in provincial funding.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further information on Neighbourhoods Alive! and resources for citizen involvement can be found at:
www.gov.mb.ca/ia/programs/neighbourhoods/

Further information on Growing Opportunities can be found at:
www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/news/130472_Bro_Eng.pdf

A guide to Health Links/Info Santé can be found at:
www.gov.mb.ca/health/guide/1/health_links.html

Further information on services for persons with disabilities can be found at:
www.gov.mb.ca/fs/pwd

The document, *Full Citizenship: A Manitoba Provincial Strategy on Disability*, can be found at:
www.gov.mb.ca/access

Further information on citizen satisfaction with government service delivery can be found at the Institute for Citizen-Centred Service: **www.iccs-isac.org/eng/cf-os.htm**

Further information on At Your Service Manitoba and Manitoba Government Inquiry can be found at: **www.gov.mb.ca/contact.html**

Further information on the 2000 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating can be found at: **www.givingandvolunteering.ca/home.asp**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

IMPORTANCE TO MANITOBANS

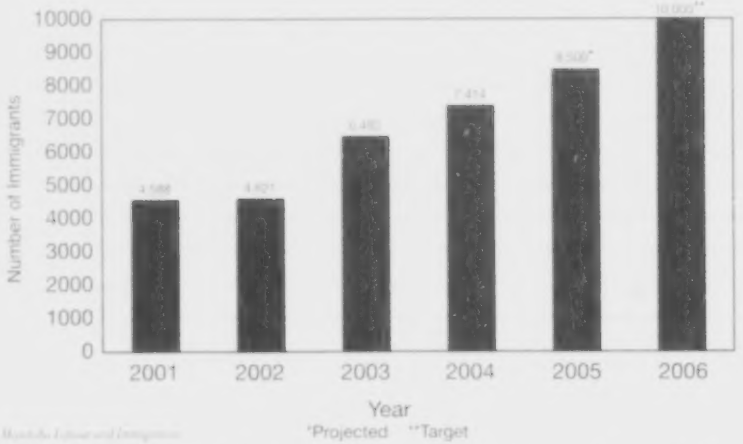
Community development is a range of activities that are essential to the vitality and social and economic growth of our province. It includes building and maintaining strong local governments with the capacity to respond to their changing environments. Strong local governments are the foundation for healthy, vibrant communities and are critical to successful community development. Investment in physical infrastructure is an important aspect of community development. Modern adequate water systems, roads and recreational facilities are a key responsibility of government. Community development also ensures citizens have the opportunity to participate in a high quality of life and to achieve their individual aspirations.

TRENDS/KEY MEASURES

Immigration

As *Manitoba's Action Strategy for Economic Growth* notes, "immigration contributes significantly to sustaining economic development and strengthens respect for cultural diversity. Immigration builds communities, provides new skills and ideas and strengthens our ability to innovate locally and in the global marketplace." Manitoba has set a bold target – attracting 10,000 immigrants per year by 2006. Annual immigration to Manitoba has grown rapidly since 2001. In 2004, 7,414 people immigrated to Manitoba. The projected number of immigrants in 2005 is expected to be almost 15 per cent greater than the number in 2004 and we are well on the way to reaching the 2006 target.

FIGURE 3-5. **IMMIGRATION TO MANITOBA 2001-2006**



Source: Manitoba Labour and Immigration

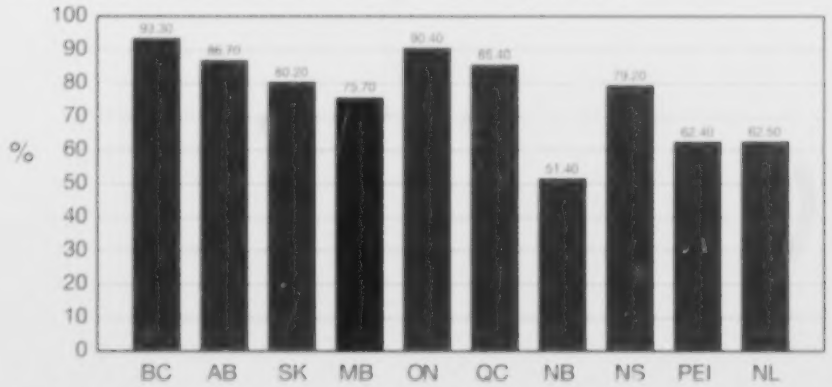
We are building the facilities Manitobans need to compete and prosper in the 21st century. Budget 2005 is committed to accelerating this strategy with new investments in important infrastructure areas.

— The 2005 Manitoba Budget Address, March 8, 2005

Access to High-speed Internet

The availability of high-speed (or broadband) Internet access in Manitoba supports community development. High speed Internet is essential infrastructure

FIGURE 3-6. **ACCESS TO BROADBAND IN CANADA (PER CENT)**



Source: Statistics Canada

for communities in the 21st century. Access to high-speed Internet brings a host of community development benefits, including new economic opportunities, improved access to health care and education, and more opportunities for Manitobans to remain and prosper in their home communities. As of May 2004, 76 per cent of Manitobans had access to high-speed Internet or broadband services. Even so, Manitoba only ranked seventh among the provinces. The challenge for Manitoba is its geography. The remaining 24 per cent of Manitobans are spread over a large number of often remote communities. The provincial government is committed to closing this gap.

RECENT ACTIONS ADDRESSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- **Immigration Programs:** There are over 41 programs to support the settlement and integration of immigrants in the province. In 2004/05, 338 clients were registered under the Credentials Recognition Program to help immigrants with professional qualifications get the accreditation they need to work in Manitoba.
- **Manitoba's Innovation Framework:** This framework has set a target of ensuring access to broadband or high speed networks for all communities by 2010. The Churchill Community Network, a high-speed connectivity project, was launched in June 2002. This community-owned satellite/ wireless model is the first of its kind in Manitoba. Further investments by the province and community groups will extend high-speed services more widely across rural and northern communities.
- **Manitoba's Provincial Broadband Strategy:** On June 3, 2005, $4 million under the Canada-Manitoba Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) was committed for the Parklands Telecommunications Network to develop a wireless broadband network for up to 56 communities in the Parkland region. In addition, $2.8 million was announced under MRIF for the Sustainable Northern Connectivity Strategy to support broadband access for up to 37 communities in Northern Manitoba.
- **Community Places Program:** This program helps non-profit organizations improve quality of life within their communities. The program provides funding and consultation to upgrade, build or buy playgrounds, multi-use facilities, ethno-cultural centres, community

halls, child care and seniors' facilities that provide lasting, long-term benefits to community residents. In 2004/05, $2.5 million was invested in 227 community capital projects. The value of local investment contributed to the projects or amount leveraged was approximately $35 million. In 2005/06, the program funding has increased to $3 million. The number of projects is anticipated to be more than 280, with the value of local investment projected to be over $50 million.

- **Neighbourhoods Alive!**: This program supports community-driven revitalization of designated neighbourhoods in Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson. To date, over $26.5 million has been committed. Neighbourhoods Alive! has several components, including:
  - The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund supports neighbourhood-based initiatives that enhance capacity building, physical renewal, economic development, safety and well-being. To date, 295 projects, totalling $8 million, have been approved.
  - The Community Initiatives Program supports projects that have a broad impact on Winnipeg's inner city or that target specific groups across the inner city. To date, 45 projects totalling $1.6 million have been approved.
  - The Neighbourhood Development Assistance Program helps community economic development by supporting the operation of Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations to plan and administer community economic development with local residents and other stakeholders.
  - Training Initiatives support a variety of training programs for inner-city residents to help with entry-level career opportunities in areas of labour market demand.
  - The Neighbourhood Housing Assistance Program, which to date has committed funding for the repair, rehabilitation or construction of over 1,700 housing units in Brandon, Thompson and Winnipeg's inner city.
  - The Lighthouses program supports partnerships with community groups to reduce youth crime by providing social and recreational activities in schools and other community facilities outside of school hours. This program is open to communities province-wide and $1.5 million has been committed to 32 project sites.
- **Community Economic Development (CED)**: This initiative facilitates a community-driven process that combines social, economic and environmental goals to build healthy, economically viable communities. CED strategies revitalize and renew community economies by developing community resources for community benefit. CED focuses on local control and ownership of resources and strives to increase the self-reliance of local communities.
- **Aboriginal Justice Inquiry – Child Welfare Initiative**: This initiative aims to improve the child and family services system in Manitoba, by recognizing and supporting the rights of children to develop within safe healthy families and communities. It also recognizes First Nations and Métis peoples' rights to unique authority and the rights and responsibility to honour and care for their children.

- **Community Enterprise Development Tax Credit**: This encourages Manitobans to invest in opportunities in their communities and target development where it is considered most desirable. It gives community-based enterprises the means to raise needed equity capital.
- **Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Program**: Started in 2000, the Manitoba government invested $60 million in partnership with the federal and local governments, for a total investment of $180 million. This program has supported 175 projects throughout the province, including sewer and water projects, upgrades to water treatment plants and two recreational facilities. Manitoba will invest a further $40 million as a partner in the current $120 million Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund.
- **Building Manitoba Fund**: The commitment to improving infrastructure was enhanced through the creation of this fund in Budget 2005, which will provide $119 million to municipalities, an average increase of eight per cent over 2004.
- **Winter Roads**: The budget for winter roads has more than doubled since 1999. In 2004/05, the province awarded 20 contracts for $5 million to First Nation and remote northern communities. Cost-shared with Canada, the winter road system extends approximately 2,200 kilometres across the province and serves over 38,000 Manitobans in 24 communities. The province has been realigning routes away from waterways to improve safety and reduce environmental risks.
- **Strengthening Local Governments**: Support for building strong local governments and effective land use planning has been through:
  - a new City of Winnipeg Charter, reformed election legislation and streamlined planning legislation;
  - development of Tools for Change, in partnership with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, to support municipally driven restructuring initiatives; and
  - encouraging and supporting municipalities to adopt clear land use planning principles which enhances public participation and economic development.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further information on the Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Program can be found at: **www.infrastructure.mb.ca**

Further information on the CED Tax Credit can be found at: **www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/ri/community/ria01s06.html**

Further information on the Community Places Program can be found at: **www.gov.mb.ca/chc/grants/cpp.html**

Further information on the Neighbourhoods Alive! Toolbox containing guides to proposal writing, neighbourhood planning and community economic development can be found at: **www.gov.mb.ca/ia/programs/neighbourhoods/toolbox/index.html**

Further information on immigration and multiculturalism can be found at: **www.gov.mb.ca/labour/immigrate/**

Further information on Municipal Tools for change can be found at: **www.amm.mb.ca/tools%20for%20change.htm/**

HOUSING

IMPORTANCE TO MANITOBANS

Shelter is one of the most basic human needs. Manitobans place a high priority on the availability of accessible affordable housing. Housing must meet the needs of all Manitobans, especially those with special needs or challenges. Manitobans also recognize the economic importance of housing. Individuals' residences are generally their most valuable asset and rising values contribute to economic growth and strong communities.

TRENDS/KEY MEASURES

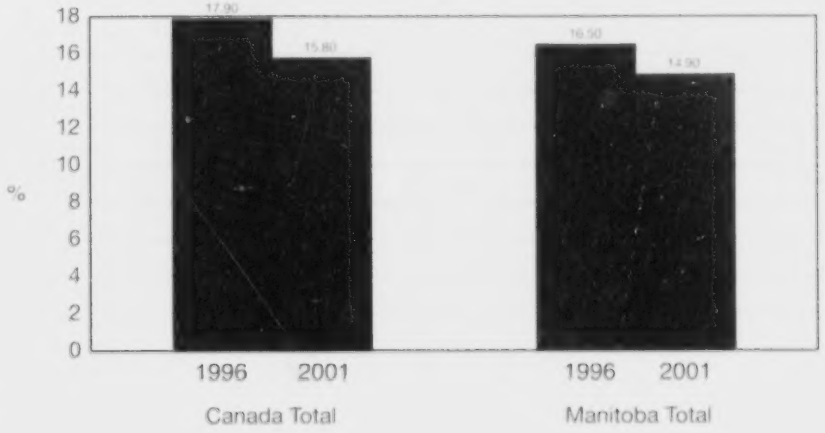
Adequacy and Affordability of Housing

Families are said to be in "core need" if their housing is in need of major repair, does not have enough bedrooms for their size and makeup, or if the cost is 30 per cent or more of their total income. Progress in reducing the number of Manitoba households in core need has been encouraging. The most recent census data shows 14.9 per cent of Manitoba households were in core need in 2001, down from 16.5 per cent in 1996. In both cases, the number of Manitoba households in core need was less than the national average. In 1996, the national average was 17.9 per cent (versus 16.5 per cent in Manitoba) and, in 2001, the national average was 15.8 per cent (versus 14.9 per cent in Manitoba).

Although the percentage of Aboriginal households in core need was greater than the Manitoba percentage, progress is being made there too. In 1996, 38.2 per cent of Aboriginal households were in core need; by 2001 that number had fallen to 27.7 per cent.

In partnership with northern and Aboriginal organizations, a Northern Housing Strategy is addressing the special needs for housing in the north. A major goal of the strategy is to increase the level of participation of northerners in all aspects of their housing.

FIGURE 3-7. **CORE NEED COMPARISON (PER CENT) 1996 AND 2001 (CANADA, MANITOBA)**



Source: Manitoba Family Services and Housing

RISING HOUSING STARTS

There were 4,440 housing starts in Manitoba in 2004, the highest number in at least 15 years. The average annual number of starts in the first half of this decade (2000 to 2004) averaged 3,557, which is 36.3 per cent higher than the average annual number in the 1990s (2,610). The national average number grew by 30.8 per cent. Since 2000, starts in Manitoba are up 73.4 per cent, compared to about 53.9 per cent nationally.

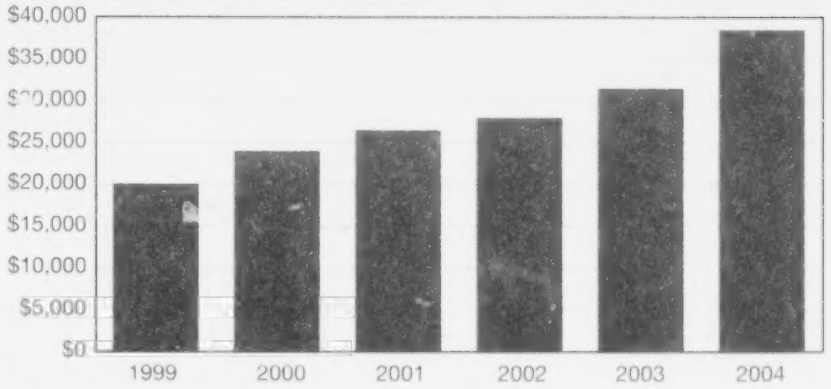
Housing Renovation and Rehabilitation

In the period between 1999 and 2004, property values in targeted inner city neighbourhoods have increased by an average of 87.8 per cent. House sale prices have increased from an average of $21,682 in 1999 to an average of $40,729 in 2004, as the neighbourhoods experience the effects of rehabilitation and renewal.

Owners and Renters

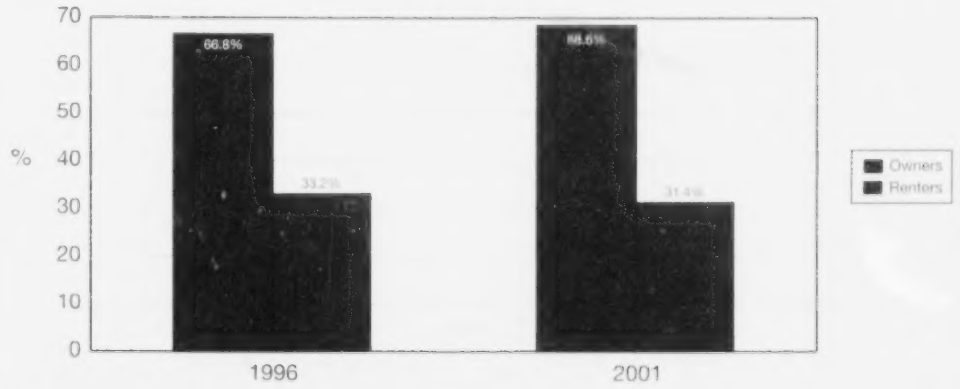
The most recent available statistics indicate that more Manitobans are becoming home owners. Between 1996 and 2001, the number of Manitobans who were owners increased by 6.4 per cent, while the number of Manitobans who rented dropped by two per cent.

FIGURE 3-8. **AVERAGE HOUSE SALE PRICE, TARGETED WINNIPEG HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVE AREAS 1999-2004**



Source: Winnipeg Real Estate Board, Multiple Listing Service

FIGURE 3-9. **PERCENT OWNER AND RENTER HOUSEHOLDS IN MANITOBA, 1996-2001**



Source: Statistics Canada

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Housing Renovation and Rehabilitation

In the period between 1999 and 2004 property values in targeted inner city neighbourhoods have increased by an average of 87.8 per cent. Home sale prices have increased from an average of $23,082 in 1999 to an average of $40,726 in 2004 as the neighbourhoods experience the effects of rehabilitation and renewal.

Owners and Renters

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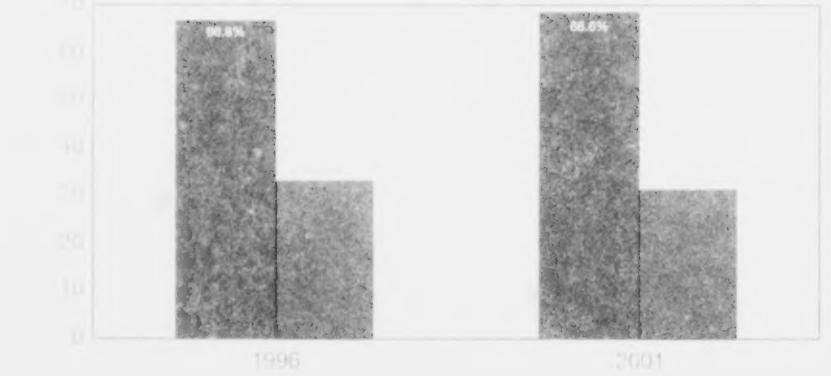


RECENT ACTIONS ADDRESSING HOUSING

- Budget 2005 provided $3 million for a new integrated shelter benefit strategy that will provide easier access to good quality housing for low-income Manitobans. The first phase of the strategy will see the introduction of a new shelter benefit program in 2005/06. It will target Manitobans with low incomes who rent in the private market. This new benefit will be of particular interest to seniors, families with children and persons with disabilities.
- Since 2000, funding has been committed for the development, repair or rehabilitation of over 2,200 housing units in Winnipeg through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative, a tri-level single window initiative. Funding has been committed for a further 875 housing units in Brandon and Thompson. Twenty-six infill housing units have been developed by community groups in targeted inner-city neighbourhoods and an additional 23 have been approved for development in 2005. The Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation has contracted two builders to develop a target of at least 42 infill housing units in other targeted Winnipeg communities during 2005.
- Through phase one of the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative, $37 million has been committed to further increase support for the development of safe and affordable housing. Funding support under the New Rental Supply, New Homeownership Supply, Repair/Conversion and Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance programs is available to support housing proposals. The second phase of the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Agreement was recently signed, committing additional funds, and extending the original agreement by one year to 2008. The governments of Canada and Manitoba will now each contribute $36.9 million to the initiative, for a total of over $73 million.
- Accomplishments under the Northern Housing Strategy include:
  - **Northern Model House**: The northern model house was built in Thompson to demonstrate the viability of panelized housing technology as an alternative construction method for the north. Construction is proceeding on four panelized units in Wabowden.
  - **Homeowner/Tenant Training**: Anokiiwin Training, an Aboriginal owned and operated company, has been engaged to develop and deliver a pilot training program in northern and remote communities on how to maintain homes in a safe and affordable manner. The program will have four components: health and safety, home maintenance, budgeting and energy efficiency.
- Recent actions have been taken to ensure adequate supports are available to seniors and persons with disabilities so they can continue living in the community:
  - The Working Group on Housing for Individuals with Disabilities, established in January 2003, is finalizing its final report and recommendations, to be forwarded shortly to Ministers of Family Services and Housing, Health, Healthy Living and Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade.

- An Aging in Place policy statement will influence future health and housing programs for elderly persons and persons with disabilities to remain in the community with adequate supports.
- An integrated supportive living strategy will allow seniors and persons with disabilities to live in the community with supports and prevent premature entry into personal care homes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further information regarding Manitoba housing initiatives can be found at:
www.gov.mb.ca/fs/housing

SAFE COMMUNITIES

IMPORTANCE TO MANITOBANS

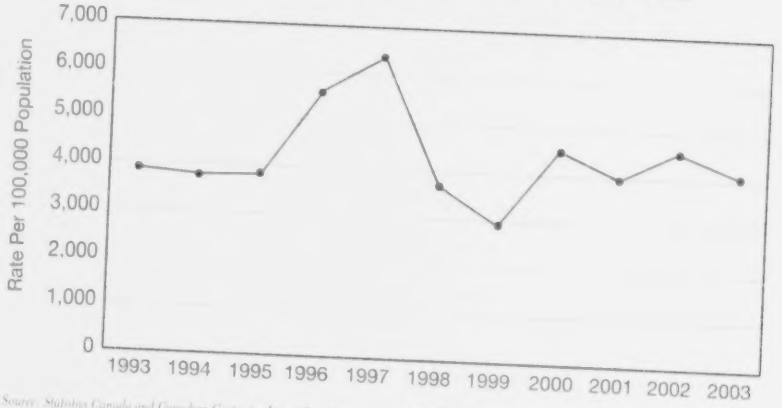
Manitobans expect to be generally safe in their homes, schools, workplaces, streets and communities. Safe communities mean that Manitobans are free to live, work and raise their families without fear of crime or victimization. Safe communities mean Manitobans are not unduly exposed to injury on the streets or in their workplaces and are protected in the event of emergencies.

TRENDS/KEY MEASURES

Crime Rate

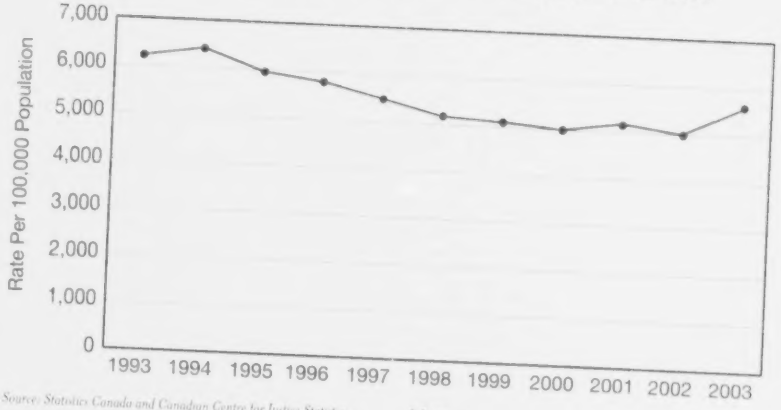
Manitoba crime rate statistics are published annually by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, an agency of Statistics Canada. They are broken into several major categories: violent crimes, property crimes and other crimes. However, these statistics must be approached with caution. A higher or lower crime rate does not necessarily mean the amount of crime has actually gone up or down. It may mean that the justice system has done a better job of identifying, reporting and dealing with some types of crimes. However, the crime rate is still the best available indicator of

FIGURE 3-10. **MANITOBA TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME RATES 1993-2003**



Source: Statistics Canada and Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

FIGURE 3-11. **MANITOBA TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME RATES 1993-2003**



Source: Statistics Canada and Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

the extent to which our communities are affected by crime.

Manitoba's violent crime rate has been fluctuating over the past ten years. In 2003, Manitoba's total violent crime rate decreased slightly, down one per cent. This rate is slightly lower than the average rate over the previous ten years and is six per cent lower than the rate in 1997, which was the highest rate in the past 10 years.

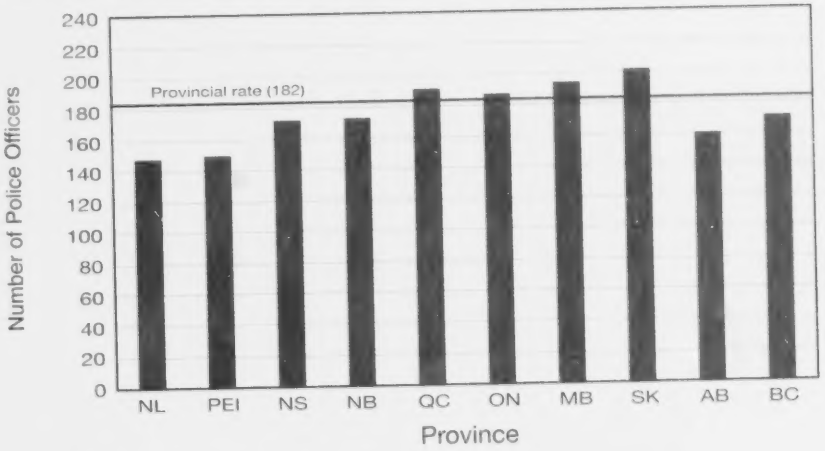
In 2003, Manitoba's property crime rate increased by 12 per cent after a general trend of decreases since 1995. However, it was still 12 per cent lower than the 1994 rate, which was the highest rate within the previous ten years. The majority of the increase in Manitoba's property crimes (71 per cent) was due to an increase in theft under $5,000. This may be partly due to a new telephone reporting system in Winnipeg that makes it easier to report those offences.

Manitoba had the second highest number of police officers per capita of any province in Canada: 194 officers per 100,000 population.

Workplace Safety

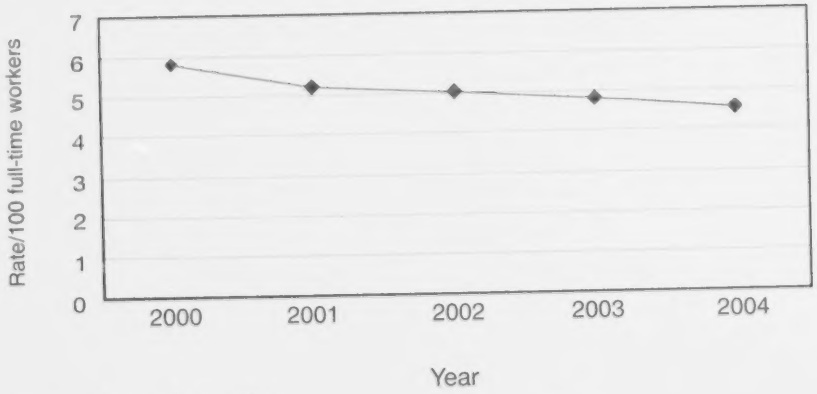
Measuring trends in workplace safety can provide valuable information that contributes to ensuring safe communities.

FIGURE 3-12. **POLICE OFFICERS PER 100,000 POPULATION, BY PROVINCE, 2004**



1. This average excludes the Territories and RCMP Headquarters and Training Academy.
Source: Source: Police Administration Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

FIGURE 3-13. **INJURY RATE PER 100 FULL-TIME WORKERS, 2000-2004**



Source: Workers Compensation Board Annual Report

In the workplace, Manitoba is well on the way to achieving its goal of reducing time lost to injuries by 25 per cent by 2005. From the base year of 2000 to 2004, injuries have declined by an estimated 22.4 per cent.

RECENT ACTIONS ADDRESSING SAFE COMMUNITIES

- Policing has been strengthened throughout the province with funding for a significant number of additional police officers to serve Winnipeg, Brandon, rural and northern Manitoba.
- Partnerships with communities across the province provide recreational, educational and social opportunities for youth at risk. Since 2000, the government has supported the establishment of 32 after-school programs, through Lighthouses across Manitoba and has expanded this successful program by investing in four more Lighthouse locations in Budget 2005.
- Provincial legislation has helped shut down over 100 drug, prostitution and sniff houses.
- A new, strict curfew program targets chronic and repeat young offenders who have committed auto thefts.
- Manitoba has some of the toughest anti-drinking and driving laws in Canada and placed first among provinces in this regard in last year's Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Annual Report.
- Legislative amendments have strengthened consequences when impaired drivers have child passengers and when *Highway Traffic Act* offences result in death.
- Enhanced support has been provided to the Chief Judge's program to expedite domestic violence cases in the Provincial Court and expand it to youth cases.
- New police funding has created or helped sustain special units including: Manitoba Integrated Organized Crime Task Force; Integrated Child Exploitation Unit; new Integrated High-risk Offender Unit; new Integrated Sex Offender Registry; new RCMP Street-Gang and Auto-Theft units to operate as mobile strike forces; and Winnipeg Police Service Cold Case and Missing Persons units.
- An enhanced organized and violent crime strategy has been developed. One core element is the creation of a new organized crime intelligence unit within Manitoba Justice Corrections Division. The unit will collect and analyze information on organized crimes and gangs.
- Resources to support people affected by family violence have been enhanced.
- *The Safe Schools Charter*, an amendment to *The Public Schools Act*, requires that school boards provide a safe, caring school environment for all students. It sets out common, core elements which all schools must incorporate within their codes of conduct and emergency response plans. Other initiatives include the Early Behaviour Intervention initiative, support for clinicians, professional development training, funding for school counselling, funding of Safe Schools Manitoba and the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program.
- The Domestic Violence Prevention Workplace Initiative has been in operation since January 2004. It focuses on how employers can help employees affected by domestic violence to access

available services. A similar initiative, Keeping Safe at Work, focuses on the safety of women working alone or travelling to and from work alone.

- Along with Age & Opportunity Inc. and the Winnipeg Police Service, the Manitoba government has developed the SafetyAid pilot program to help seniors make their homes safer. The program helps seniors who live in Winnipeg areas most affected by crimes against property.
- The Manitoba Housing Authority has taken a number of actions to help improve the safety and security of its tenants.
- In 2004/05, 4,279 Manitobans were certified in emergency management and response. A 100 person Urban Search and Rescue team is capable of responding anywhere in the province to help municipalities with emergencies too complex or technical for their own resources. A provincial hazardous materials response network has been created and a training strategy is in place to enhance fire protection systems in northern and remote communities.
- The Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization has worked closely with all municipalities and northern communities to meet the strengthened requirements in *The Emergency Measures Act* for municipal emergency planning. As a result, Manitoba will have one of the strongest systems for municipal emergency preparedness in the country.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further information on crime rate statistics, published annually by Statistics Canada, can be found at:
www40.statcan.ca/l01/ind01/l2_2693.htm

Further information on Manitoba's justice system can be found at:
www.gov.mb.ca/justice

Further information on Manitoba's family violence prevention and intervention initiatives can be found at:
www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childfam/family_violence_prevention
www.gov.mb.ca/justice/domestic/domesticindex.html
www.gov.mb.ca/wd/publications/publications.html

Further information on workplace safety can be found at:
www.wcb.mb.ca/ www.safemanitoba.com/safework_main.html

Further information on housing safety programs can be found at:
www.gov.mb.ca/fs/housing
or by contacting:

- Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative at 945-5566 in Winnipeg or toll-free in Manitoba at 1-866-689-5566; and
- Manitoba Housing Authority at 945-4663 in Winnipeg or toll-free in Manitoba at 1-800-282-8069

Further information on Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization can be found at: **www.gov.mb.ca/emo/**

CATEGORY IV: ENVIRONMENT

Stewardship of the natural environment is central to a high quality of life for both present and future generations of Manitobans. The provincial government is committed to the protection and sustainable management of Manitoba's natural resources and environment, which contribute to Manitoban's health and the province's economy.

Manitoba's green strategies will help people work together to protect the environment. Manitoba leads the way in water protection and has developed some of the strongest water protection legislation in the country. The government has taken important actions to protect wilderness areas for the enjoyment and use of current and future generations and Manitoba's climate change policy continues to set a strong example for other jurisdictions. Manitoba is a leader in the development of clean, renewable energy, which gives us a definite advantage over other North American jurisdictions.

This section of the document presents two key themes on protecting and managing Manitoba's natural environment:

- environment, which focuses on indicators of water quality and protected areas
- climate change, which focuses on indicators of Manitoba's progress in meeting Kyoto Protocol targets and renewable energy

"Stewardship of our natural environment — our wilderness areas, our clean water and fresh air — is central to a high quality of life for both present and future generations of Manitobans."

— Speech from the Throne, November 22, 2004

WATER QUALITY

IMPORTANCE TO MANITOBANS

Water is one of our most important natural resources and its proper stewardship is a priority for the provincial government. This province is fortunate to have abundant freshwater lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater. The health and economic and social prosperity of Manitobans depends on a clean, reliable supply of water.

Manitobans need clean water for almost every aspect of their lives, including hydroelectricity, fishing, industry and agriculture. It also plays an important role in cultural, spiritual and physical values; it is vital to transportation links for northern communities; and it supports all living organisms.

The Manitoba government is committed to ensuring an abundance of high quality water to support and maintain our ecosystems and provide for the present and future needs of all Manitobans.

TRENDS/KEY MEASURES

Water Quality Index (WQI)

A key measure of Manitoba's water quality is the Water Quality Index (WQI), developed by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME). It provides consistency for Canadian jurisdictions to report water quality information. The index includes many factors, such as acidity, fecal coliform counts, dissolved oxygen concentrations and others that combine to contribute to an overall assessment of water quality. Low index values or poorer quality in some water bodies may indicate natural characteristics of the surrounding landscape rather than pollution. Large changes in index values or consistent trends over time are a stronger sign of potential issues and signal the need for further investigation. Water quality can be ranked poor, marginal, fair, good or excellent and is based on a scale of 0 to 100.

The Water Quality Index for Manitoba's Prairie Ecozone is in the "fair" range. The overall average index for both 1991 and 2004 was 79 or just below the "good" range. A lower index value for this ecozone compared to the others is expected because there are more developed soils that naturally contain higher amounts of nutrients and minerals for leaching.

The Water Quality Index for the Boreal Plains Ecozone in Manitoba is generally in the "good" range. The overall average index for 1991 was 86 and in 2004, it was 82.

FIGURE 4-1. **MANITOBA'S ECOZONES**

Source: Manitoba Conservation

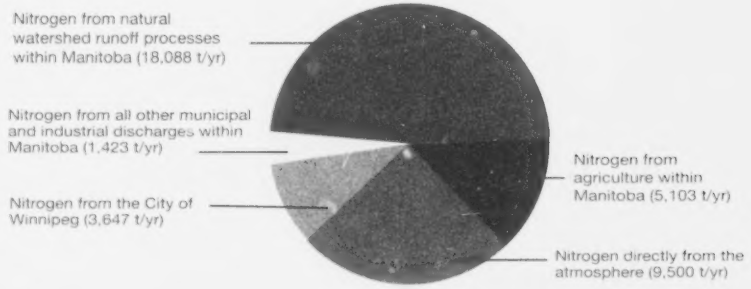
The Water Quality Index for Manitoba's Boreal Shield Ecozone is generally in the higher end of the "good" range. The overall average index for 1991 was 89 and in 2004, it was 90.

Lake Winnipeg Water Quality

While Manitoba's water quality is generally good, there are concerns that Lake Winnipeg is changing. Excessive loading of nitrogen and phosphorus to Lake Winnipeg is causing gradual changes in water quality and the lake's biological communities. Nutrients are directly associated with the production of nuisance growths of algae affecting fish habitat, recreation, drinking water and clogging fishing nets. Some nuisance growths of algae can also produce toxins.

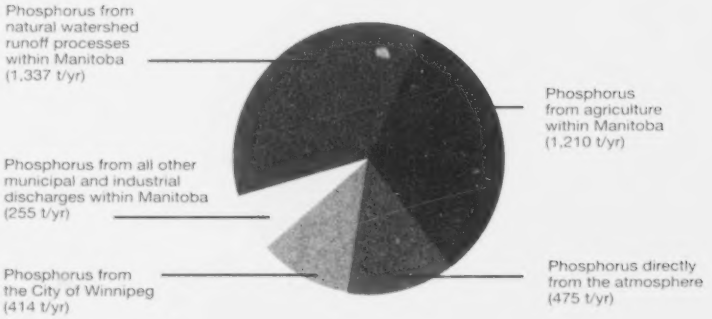
Studies done by Manitoba Water Stewardship show that nitrogen and phosphorus loads to Lake Winnipeg have increased by about 10 per cent since the 1970s. Through the *Lake Winnipeg Action Plan*, announced in February 2003, the provincial government has committed to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus loads to Lake Winnipeg to pre-1970s levels. The Lake Winnipeg Action Plan recognizes that nutrients are contributed by virtually all of our activities throughout the watershed and that reductions will need to occur across all sectors.

FIGURE 4-2. **RELATIVE CONTRIBUTION OF NITROGEN LOADING TO LAKE WINNIPEG FROM MANITOBA SOURCES (2005)**


Nitrogen from natural watershed runoff processes within Manitoba (18,088 t/yr)
Nitrogen from all other municipal and industrial discharges within Manitoba (1,423 t/yr)
Nitrogen from the City of Winnipeg (3,647 t/yr)
Nitrogen from agriculture within Manitoba (5,103 t/yr)
Nitrogen directly from the atmosphere (9,500 t/yr)

Source: Manitoba Water Stewardship

FIGURE 4-3. **RELATIVE CONTRIBUTION OF PHOSPHORUS LOADING TO LAKE WINNIPEG FROM MANITOBA SOURCES (2005)**


Phosphorus from natural watershed runoff processes within Manitoba (1,337 t/yr)
Phosphorus from all other municipal and industrial discharges within Manitoba (255 t/yr)
Phosphorus from the City of Winnipeg (414 t/yr)
Phosphorus from agriculture within Manitoba (1,210 t/yr)
Phosphorus directly from the atmosphere (475 t/yr)

Source: Manitoba Water Stewardship

DEVILS LAKE

Manitoba has strongly opposed the Devils Lake outlet project being promoted by North Dakota. The project could have negative environmental effects on the ecosystems in the Red River and Lake Winnipeg basins. Despite opposition from Manitoba, North Dakota began construction on a Devils Lake outlet to stop flooding in that area.

Although Devils Lake is in the same drainage basin as the Red River, it has no natural inlets or outlets and has been landlocked for over 1,000 years. Its water quality is vastly different and usually much worse than in nearby lakes and rivers, including the Red River and Lake Winnipeg. Another major concern for Manitoba is the limited knowledge about the micro-organisms in the lake, and the potential transfer of harmful biota that could upset the aquatic ecosystem and fish populations.

Manitoba and Canada have consistently requested the Devils Lake issue be referred to the International Joint Commission (IJC) to review the project risks and explore alternatives for flood mitigation. Canada has formally asked the United States to jointly refer this issue to the IJC. Manitoba and Canada have the support of a coalition of partners that includes the governments of Minnesota, Missouri, Quebec and Ontario, the Assembly of First Nations, the Great Lakes Commission and environmental groups on both sides of the border. The Great Lakes Commission includes representatives from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ontario and Quebec.

RECENT ACTIONS ADDRESSING WATER QUALITY

- Manitoba Water Stewardship was created in November 2003 to ensure Manitoba's water resources are managed in a coordinated and sustainable manner. The goal is to promote sustainable economic development while protecting water resources for future generations. The department leads important initiatives including the Lake Winnipeg Action Strategy, expansion of the Red River Floodway and efforts to stop the construction of an outlet at Devils Lake, North Dakota. The creation of a stand-alone water department, the only one in Canada, signifies the importance Manitoba places on protecting water resources.
- In 2003, *The Manitoba Water Strategy*, an approach to protect our water from source to tap, was released. The strategy proposes new legislation, improved funding and integrated water management on a watershed basis as the keys to ensuring sustainable water resources.
- The *Water Protection Act* was passed in June 2005 and will provide the authority to set targets for water quality, establish water quality management zones and undertake watershed planning within the province.
- In 2004, the provincial government developed a Clean Beaches Program to provide information on protecting and improving water quality at beaches and reducing health risks.
- The Riparian Tax Credit Program encourages better management of land along the water's edge and recognizes those who adopt the improved practices. The program was expanded to include lakeshore property on eligible land.

- In 2004, the provincial government created the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board, made up of scientists and community leaders. The board recently released an interim report outlining recommendations on ways to reduce nutrient levels in Lake Winnipeg. Immediate action is being taken on 23 of the recommendations.
- Monitoring of Lake Winnipeg water quality has been ongoing since 1999. Discussions are occurring with the Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium and other agencies to develop a long-term science program for Lake Winnipeg.
- In 2005, a Lake Manitoba Stewardship Board was created with a similar mandate to the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board.
- In January 2004, *The Drinking Water Safety Act* came into force. It will adopt certain federal guidelines and create standards for water treatment works construction permits and water treatment operations licences.
- Since 1999, the Province of Manitoba has provided about $60 million in assistance to clean water projects in about 100 communities and municipalities, including water supplies and treatment systems to alleviate public health concerns/issues. The province has also invested about $30 million in about 45 communities and municipalities for upgrading wastewater treatment systems, to alleviate environmental concerns/issues.
- Since 1999, the province has increased funding to Conservation Districts (CDs) by over 60 per cent, which has allowed for the creation of five new CDs and the expansion of four existing CDs. There are presently 16 CDs in the province and negotiations are underway for the creation of another. The 17 CDs will cover over 70 per cent of Agro-Manitoba.
- The province continues to invest in other water initiatives, such as:
  - promoting new standards under *The Water Protection Act*;
  - flood proofing and protection;
  - ice jam and shoreline erosion mitigation;
  - drought proofing of water supplies; and
  - provincial drainage system maintenance and rehabilitation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further information on Manitoba Water Quality Standards, Objectives and Guidelines, Watershed Management Plans and activities of Manitoba Water Stewardship can be found at: **www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship** or by contacting:

Manitoba Water Stewardship
200 Saulteaux Crescent, Winnipeg MB R3J 3W3
Phone: 1-866-626-2862 (toll free)
Phone: 1-204-945-6398 (in Winnipeg)

Further information on Lake Winnipeg can be found at: **www.gov.mb.ca/waterstewardship/water_quality/lake_winnipeg/whats_new.html**

PROTECTED AREAS

IMPORTANCE TO MANITOBANS

Protected areas consist of land, fresh water and marine sites where logging, mining, hydroelectric development, oil and gas development and other activities that significantly and adversely affect habitat are prohibited. Protected areas are important for many reasons.

- They help ensure conservation of biodiversity, the complex web of life, including all species from microscopic bacteria to plants and animals.
- They help maintain natural cycles and ecological processes or services, such as cleansing water and air.
- They serve as scientific benchmarks to evaluate environmental change over time.
- They provide wild and pristine natural areas that are invaluable for the health and well-being of Manitobans.
- They preserve land where Aboriginal people can maintain their traditional ecological knowledge and continue traditional activities, such as trapping, hunting and fishing.

The goal of Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative is to create a network of protected lands that represents the biodiversity in each of Manitoba's natural regions.

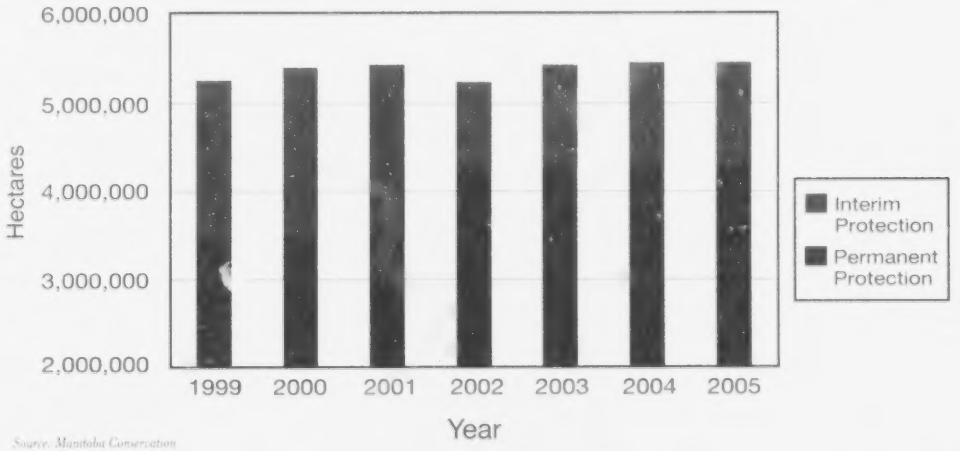
TRENDS/KEY MEASURES

Network of Protected Areas

Significant progress has been made in expanding the network of permanent and interim protected areas. This has been achieved with the cooperation and support of the major resource users, especially the mining and forestry sectors and First Nations communities.

Figure 4-4 shows positive growth in protected areas in Manitoba from 1999 to 2005. Currently 5.4 million hectares, or 8.4 per cent of Manitoba, is protected. This includes two national parks, 18 ecological reserves, all or parts of 42 provincial parks and interim protected park reserves, all or parts of 43 wildlife management areas, two areas designated

FIGURE 4-4. **GROWTH IN PROTECTED AREAS (HECTARES) 1999-2005**



Source: Manitoba Conservation

FIGURE 4-5. **PROTECTED AREAS IN MANITOBA**

Source: Manitoba Conservation

under *The Forest Act* and various parcels of private land owned by a conservation agency. During the past five years, almost one million hectares of land have been permanently protected.

RECENT ACTIONS ADDRESSING PROTECTED AREAS

- In 2000, the provincial government released *An Action Plan for Manitoba's Network of Protected Areas* which outlines steps to establish protected areas. It also identifies methods and criteria used to choose them and to assess how they contribute to achieving the goal.
- In 2000, all or part of 13 wildlife management areas were protected, totalling 39,683 hectares and Birch Island and Fisher Bay Park Reserves were created, providing interim protection to 107,200 hectares.
- In 2001, the Pembina Valley Provincial Park was established in southwestern Manitoba, with 171 hectares designated as protected.
- Also in 2001, all or part of eight more wildlife management areas totalling 14,130 hectares were designated as protected and Goose Islands, Grand

Island, Kinwow Bay, Pelican Islands, Pemmican Island, Sturgeon Bay and Walter Cook Upland Caves Park Reserves were created providing interim protection to 27,327 hectares.

- In 2002, the Caribou River and Trappist Monastery Provincial Parks were established, permanently protecting just over 764,000 hectares.
- Criddle/Vane Homestead Park Reserve (132 hectares) was created in 2003 and permanently protected as a provincial park in 2004.
- In 2004, the Bell and Steeprock Canyons Protected Area (11,310 hectares) was designated under *The Forest Act* and Little George Island (15 hectares) and Jennifer and Tom Shay (seven hectares) became Manitoba's newest ecological reserves (which are Manitoba's most protected areas).
- In 2004, an agreement with the Nature Conservancy of Canada protected 4,118 hectares of endangered tall grass prairie/associated ecosystems, adding private lands to the network for the first time.
- In 2004, Manigotagan River Provincial Park (7,416 hectares) was designated. Rivers Provincial Park was expanded by 50 hectares and a lease exchange agreement was signed to add 15 hectares to Beaudry Provincial Park.
- Also in 2004, Manitoba announced its support for the nomination of the east side of Lake Winnipeg as a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Over the past five years, interim protection for East Paint Lake, Amisk, Poplar/Nanowin Rivers and Chitek Lake Park Reserves was renewed to continue protection of 1,059,955 hectares.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further information regarding Manitoba Protected Areas Initiative can be found at: **www.ManitobaProtectedAreas.com** or by contacting:

Protected Areas Initiative
Box 53, 200 Saulteaux Crescent
Winnipeg R3J 3W3

Phone: 1-800-282-8069
ext. 4040 (toll free)
Phone: 1-204-945-4040 (in Winnipeg)
E-mail: pai@gov.mb.ca

MEETING KYOTO PROTOCOL TARGETS

IMPORTANCE TO MANITOBANS

The provincial government has supported Canada's commitment to the Kyoto Protocol from the beginning of negotiations. This international agreement is an important step in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions and addressing climate change. It sets a target for Canada to reduce greenhouse gas emissions six per cent below 1990 levels by 2012.

Results of public consultations in 2001 showed Manitobans support taking action to deal with climate change to:

- protect our environment
- use energy more wisely
- take advantage of renewable energy opportunities
- protect our natural carbon sinks in the agriculture and forest sectors
- ensure long-term economic sustainability

Manitoba's climate change activities support community economic development, the principles and guidelines of sustainable development and Manitoba's green strategies.

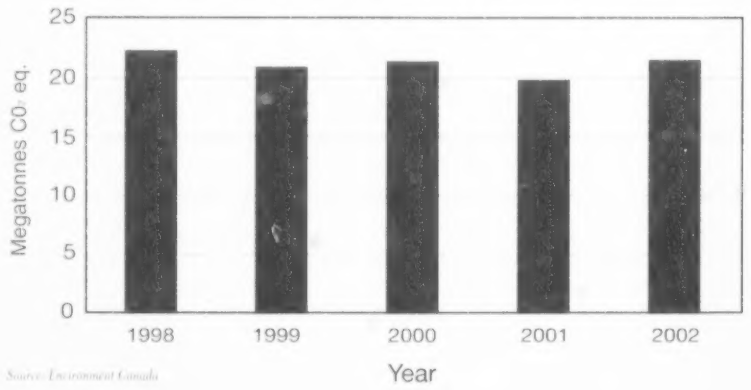
TRENDS/KEY MEASURES

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Manitoba's total greenhouse gas emissions have remained fairly stable over the period from 1998 to 2002. Because of our clean, renewable hydroelectricity, Manitoba contributes only about three per cent of Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions and is well-positioned to help Canada meet Kyoto goals, especially through increased hydroelectric generation for export.

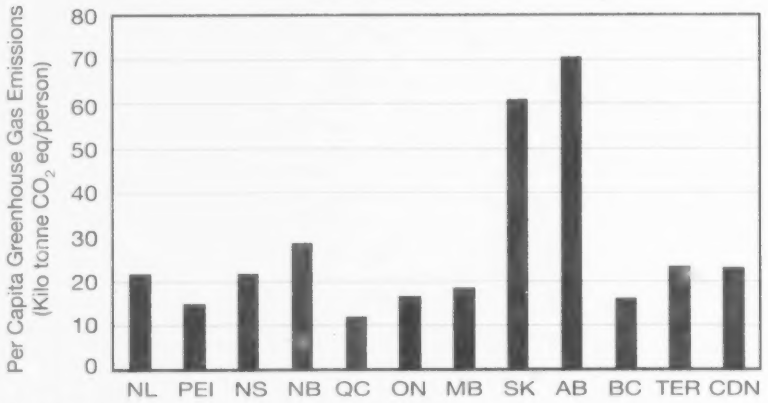
The transportation and agriculture sectors create most of Manitoba's greenhouse gas emissions and have been relatively stable. Emissions from stationary sources (e.g., heating for buildings) account for the third highest emissions in Manitoba. Emissions from passenger vehicles are stable with slight increases from light-duty gasoline trucks and heavy-duty diesel trucks. Emissions from agriculture have not changed over the same period. Emissions for residential heating are also stable but there is a slight increase from commercial and institutional buildings. Emissions from waste disposal are increasing.

FIGURE 4-6. **TOTAL MANITOBA GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS 1998-2002**



Source: Environment Canada

FIGURE 4-7. **PER CAPITA GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN 2002**



Source: Environment Canada

RECENT ACTIONS ADDRESSING MANITOBA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

- Clean energy development and exports are key components of Manitoba's contribution to meeting Kyoto Protocol commitments. In 2002, the provincial government released *Manitoba's Climate Change Action Plan*, which states that Manitoba's greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced up to 18 per cent below 1990 levels. This reduction can be achieved if renewable energy development becomes a priority in the national market. Many of the key emission-reduction actions for Manitoba identified in the action plan are being implemented.
- Since 2001, the Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund has contributed $1.3 million to 55 projects that help reduce emissions, increase awareness, support technological innovation and study the effects of climate change.
- Manitoba Hydro has converted its Selkirk generating station from coal to natural gas, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 0.2 megatonnes annually.
- Energy efficiency initiatives in government-owned buildings have cut emissions from over 40,000 tonnes annually in 1990 to about 37,000 tonnes in 2001. As well, 140 alternative fuel vehicles are part of the provincial government's vehicle fleet and a directive given by Cabinet encouraging ethanol fuel use. The government is committed to increasing the number of alternative fuel vehicles in its fleet.
- The St. Leon wind farm in southwestern Manitoba began operation in May 2005 and will reduce emissions by six megatonnes over its lifetime.
- A manufacturing tax incentive for energy efficient equipment use has been introduced.
- The government has partnered with the City of Winnipeg and Government of Canada in WINSMART (Winnipeg Sustainable Management Advancing Responsible Transportation) to identify feasible, green transportation options for the city.
- The province has provided funding for, and is working with, the Climate Change Connection, Manitoba's climate change education and outreach centre.

- The Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance has declared Manitoba a national leader in energy efficiency. Building on that, the expansion of the Manitoba Hydro Power Smart program has the potential to reduce residential and commercial emissions by 0.75 megatonnes annually. Initiatives to increase the number of green buildings in Manitoba will help maintain this leadership. Additional wind energy developments of 1,000 megawatts will contribute to meeting Kyoto Protocol reductions.
- Manitoba has partnered with the Government of Canada to create the Climate Change Community Challenge (C4). Participating C4 communities are undertaking a baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory to monitor their future emissions reductions. C4 has the potential to reduce community emissions by one megatonne or more over the three-year program.
- The Clean Energy Transfer Initiative can potentially reduce emissions by 20 megatonnes annually by displacing coal-generating plants in other jurisdictions with exported hydroelectric power.
- The proposed Wuskwatim Hydro Generation station has emission reduction potential of 1.1 megatonnes annually.
- Manitoba's Ethanol Initiative, requiring a ten per cent blend by 2007, will save 0.135 megatonnes of emissions annually.
- Manitoba is currently a North American leader in geothermal energy. The goal is to double the number of geothermal energy installations in the next two years, further reducing natural gas emissions.
- The provincial government is supporting development of an advanced-technology hybrid fuel cell bus prototype.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further information on climate change and Manitoba's progress on meeting Kyoto Protocol targets can be found at:

- Climate Change Branch, Manitoba Energy, Science and Technology: **www.gov.mb.ca/est/climatechange/**
- Energy Development Initiative, Manitoba Energy, Science and Technology: **www.gov.mb.ca/est/energy/index.html**
- Business development for Environmental Industries, Manitoba Energy, Science and Technology: **www.gov.mb.ca/est/rit/lifesc/structure.html**
- Manitoba Hydro: **www.hydro.mb.ca/**
- Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives: **www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/index.shtml**
- Transportation and Government Services (Hydrogen/Ethanol): **www.gov.mb.ca/est/energy/hydrogen/hy_comite.html** **www.fva.gov.mb.ca/html/ethanol.htm**
- Air Quality Branch, Manitoba Conservation: **www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/airquality/**
- Pollution Prevention Branch, Manitoba Conservation: **www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention/**
- East Side Planning Initiative, Manitoba Conservation: **www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/eastsideplan/**
- Environment Canada, Information on Greenhouse Gases Sources and Sinks: **www.ec.gc.ca/pdb/ghg/online_data_e.cfm**

RENEWABLE ENERGY

IMPORTANCE TO MANITOBANS

Clean energy is central to Manitoba's future economic growth and development. New, renewable energy projects will help create jobs in rural areas and reduce the amount of fossil fuel imports from other jurisdictions.

Clean energy helps protect the environment. Biofuels (fuels derived from plants and waste) and new renewable projects will help reduce the need for energy from fossil fuels.

The future of Manitoba Hydro depends on clean energy initiatives. Every year, Manitoba Hydro's domestic load increases, leaving less power available for export. New energy production will help prevent Hydro's exports from declining.

Manitoba's economic strategy for growth is to build on our clean energy advantage which includes world-class wind resources and several thousand megawatts of untapped clean hydro potential.

TRENDS/KEY MEASURES

Wind monitoring towers

Wind monitoring assesses the viability of wind resources at a given site. With input from the provincial government, Manitoba Hydro erected Manitoba's first wind monitoring tower in 2002. In 2003, between seven and 15 towers were built by Manitoba Hydro and the private sector. About 40 sites are now being monitored and more sites are expected to be built across the province.

Several First Nations have become involved in wind monitoring sites. Rolling River and Swan Lake will be the first First Nations in Manitoba to have wind monitoring towers installed in the spring of 2005. Our government is working closely with the communities on these projects.

Year	Number of Wind Monitoring Towers in Manitoba
Pre 2002	NIL
2002	1
2003	7-15
2004	20-30
2005	40

Source: Manitoba Energy, Science and Technology

Communities producing or actively exploring biodiesel

Small scale biodiesel production has increased over the past several years. There are now four communities/municipalities exploring the viability of biodiesel and one community production centre in operation in Arborg.

Geothermal heat pumps

The strategy adopted by the Manitoba government and Manitoba Hydro to promote the use of geothermal (or ground source) heat pumps has been very successful. It has helped transform the market, create employment and save Manitobans money on their energy bills. The cost of heating a 1,200 sq. ft. home with a ground source heat pump is half that of using a high efficiency natural gas furnace.

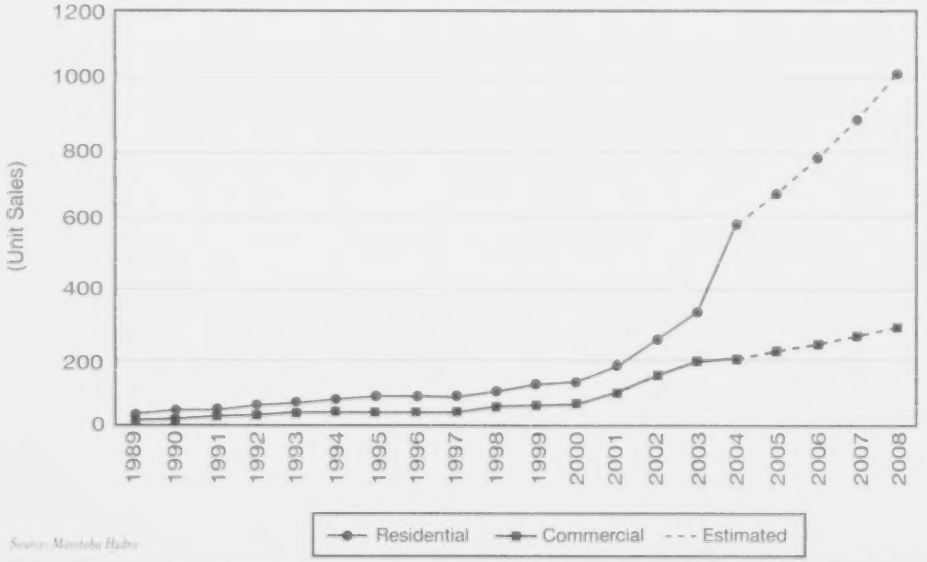
Heat pumps are being used as an economical, environmentally friendly energy alternative in every application imaginable.

Manitoba is recognized as a national leader in the installation of ground source heat pumps. While this province represents 3.7 per cent of Canada's population, it accounted for over 20 per cent of the new heat pump installations in Canada last year.

RECENT ACTIONS ADDRESSING RENEWABLE ENERGY

Ethanol: *The Biofuels Act* was passed in December 2003 and will provide the authority to mandate ethanol blended gasoline in the province. This mandate would create a local market that would otherwise be unlikely in a province this size. Several companies are considering investment decisions in Manitoba and have applied for funds from a federal government program.

FIGURE 4-8. **MANITOBA GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMP SALES 1989-2008**



Source: Manitoba Hydro

Biodiesel: Several communities are investigating the feasibility of producing biodiesel renewable fuel in small quantities for regional distribution. A biodiesel producer in Arborg is supplying the fuel to Manitoba Hydro, marking the first large scale transfer of biodiesel from a Manitoba producer to a Manitoba fleet.

Wind Power: Manitoba has confirmed its desire to see up to 1,000 megawatts of wind power developed over the next 10 years. The first component of this initiative, a 99 megawatt project at St. Leon, was generating power by May 2005, with full commissioning expected in the fall of 2005. This project garnered a $196 million investment in the rural economy, creating over 300 construction jobs.

Clean Hydro Development: The 200 megawatt Wuskwatim project is awaiting final environmental and First Nation approval. The provincial government is also exploring the feasibility of exporting higher levels of power to Ontario and other neighbours.

Ground Source Heat Pumps: The provincial government is working with Manitoba Hydro to further increase the ground source heat pump installations in Manitoba. A government-wide strategy on

the potential use of geothermal energy in government building projects is being prepared.

Bio-Based Economy sector support: Economic and research opportunities in bio-based economy (BBE) are being pursued. With more than 90 per cent of fuels, chemicals and plastics coming from oil, the industry is now beginning to use biomass as a feedstock to produce bioproducts that complement and extend petroleum. In addition, Manitoba's climate and diverse crop inventory are favourable for testing and developing tailor-made biomolecules from biofactories – a potentially invaluable tool for the automotive, food, feed and pharmaceuticals industries.

Enviro industries sector support: The province supplies industry development support to the environmental industries sector and its associations, including companies that develop, use or spin off businesses from renewable energies.

Hydrogen activities: Manitoba Hydro, working with the provincial government, has now fully implemented a commercial, onsite, electrolysis, hydrogen production system at its Dorsey Converter Station. The cold weather demonstration of the hybrid hydrogen internal combustion engine (HHICE) transit bus was recently completed in Winnipeg. It was the first hydrogen vehicle operation and refueling demonstration in the province and a second major hybrid fuel cell demonstration is pending for next year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Further information on Manitoba's Energy Development Initiative can be found at: **www.manitobaenergy.ca**. This link contains many reports on ethanol, biodiesel, wind power and other renewable energies.

Further information on Manitoba's climate change initiatives can be found at: **www.gov.mb.ca/est/climatechange/index.html**

Further information on business development support for environmental industries can be found at: **www.gov.mb.ca/est/rit/lifesc/structure.html**

Further information on Manitoba Hydro can be found at: **www.hydro.mb.ca/**

Further information on Manitoba Agriculture and Food and Rural Initiatives, ethanol, biodiesel and aneorobic digestors can be found at: **www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/index.shtml**

Further information on Manitoba Transportation and Government Services (hydrogen and ethanol) can be found at the following sites: **www.gov.mb.ca/est/energy/hydrogen/hy_comite.html**
www.fva.gov.mb.ca/html/ethanol.htm

CONCLUSION

This discussion document has presented a broad range of information on the province's performance in key priority areas. It is the first time a comprehensive performance document has been prepared by the Manitoba government. It has set out a wide variety of performance indicators, based on the best available information from data gathered by government departments.

In some cases, the information in the document has been previously provided in specialized reports. In other cases, it is being reported here by the provincial government in this format for the first time. It is hoped that in the future there will continue to be improvements in the number of outcome indicators available for reporting.

In making decisions about future reports on performance, it will be helpful to hear the views of individual Manitobans and interested organizations. Comments on how the information has been presented, the types of indicators included, and the frequency of reporting in the future are all welcomed.

The table at the end of this conclusion presents a summary of trends, selected highlights and recent actions in order to provide a quick reference to the range of indicators included in the full document.

Please direct any questions or provide any comments by November 1, 2005, either in writing to the following address or by e-mail or telephone.

Reporting to Manitobans on Performance – 2005 Discussion Document
200 – 386 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3R6

Phone: Manitoba Government Inquiry (MGI) at 1-866-MANITOBA (1-866-626-4862).
Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
E-mail: mbperformance@gov.mb.ca
Website: **www.gov.mb.ca/finance/mbperformance**

CATEGORY I: ECONOMY

THEME	INDICATOR	TREND/STATUS	HIGHLIGHTS	RECENT ACTIONS
Education	Post-Secondary Education • Enrolment rates	Increasing	University undergraduate enrolment increased by 33.5 per cent between 1999/00 and 2004/05. College enrolment increased by 30.7 per cent and enrolment in Career-Technical diploma and certificate programs increased by 49.9 per cent between 1999/00 and 2004/05. University tuition was third lowest in Canada from 1999 to 2003. Manitoba has the lowest student debt after remission of the provinces participating in the Canada Student Loans Program.	Manitoba reduced tuitions in 2000/01 and has frozen tuition rates since 2000/01. The College Expansion Initiative has made a $27 million investment to foster increased enrolment and graduates at colleges, as well as strategic infrastructure development, including University College of the North. The Aboriginal Education Action Plan has been implemented to increase high school graduation rates, encourage post-secondary education and connect young Aboriginal people with employment opportunities.
	Literacy and Learning • Literacy • High school graduation rates • Adults completing high school	Increasing	The high school graduation rate has increased from 75.9 per cent in 1994 to 80.7 per cent in 2004. The percentage of those enrolled in Adult Literacy programs who went on to further training as a result increased from 10 per cent in 2001/02 to 22 per cent in 2003/04. Approximately 30 per cent of adults in literacy programs and 40 per cent in Adult Learning Centres identified themselves as Aboriginal.	An allocation of $4.7 million has been made to support school divisions/districts for early literacy intervention programming for the lowest achieving Grade 1 students. Almost $14.3 million has been committed to registered Adult Learning Centres across the province. The province has allocated $400,000 to 38 schools across the province aimed at increasing the involvement of Aboriginal parents and families in education.

CATEGORY I: ECONOMY

THEME	INDICATOR	TREND/STATUS	HIGHLIGHTS	RECENT ACTIONS
onomic pportunities	Income • Gross Domestic Product growth • Personal disposable income per capita • Income by family type • Level of low income • Child low-income rates	Improving	Since 1999, per capita personal disposable income is up by 16.7 per cent. It is forecasted to increase by 2.8 per cent in 2005 and 3.7 per cent in 2006. Real after-tax income of all families increased by seven per cent between 1999 and 2003. It rose by 22 per cent for lone-parent families. The low-income trend is downward, particularly for persons in female lone-parent families.	Manitoba has reduced personal and business taxes in every year since 1999. The minimum wage has risen from $6.00 per hour in 1999 to $7.25 in 2005. The National Child Benefit Supplement for families on income assistance with children under 18 years of age has been fully restored, at a cost of $13.7 million per year.
	Employment • Population growth rate • Employment rate • Unemployment rate	Increasing	In 2004, total income generated in the province, as measured by Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP), was $35.4 billion, a growth of 2.8 per cent over 2003 levels. Since 1999, Manitoba employment has grown by an average of 7,200 jobs per year. This is more than double the 2,700 average growth of the 1990s.	Last year, Employment and Training Services served almost 40,000 clients through its 16 centres across the province. The Hydro Northern Training and Employment Initiative trained northern Aboriginal residents for employment opportunities on proposed hydro dams. In 2004, 2,097 Provincial Nominee Program skilled worker and business applicants were approved (an increase of 20.1 per cent over 2003). This contributed to 4,037 nominees and their family members coming to Manitoba, a 30 per cent increase over 2003.

CATEGORY II: PEOPLE

THEME	INDICATOR	TREND/STATUS	HIGHLIGHTS	RECENT ACTIONS
Health	Health Status • Chronic disease rates • Self reported health status • Life expectancy	Stable	In a 2003 survey, 62 per cent of Manitobans rated their health as "very good" or "excellent". While diabetes is a growing problem, Manitoba's 68,000 cases equates to a prevalence rate of 5.5 per 100,000 of population, compared to the national rate of 4.8. Breast cancer mortality rates have been declining since 1993.	Manitoba established a Minister for Healthy Living to promote healthy living and injury and disease prevention. Manitoba had expanded its capacity to respond to new and emerging health care threats, such as SARS, West Nile Virus and pandemic influenza. Manitoba is implementing the Chronic Disease Prevention Initiative, a citizen/community-led, evidence-based, primary prevention initiative to reduce chronic disease, such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer.
	Access and Quality of Care • Patient perceived quality of care • Population having difficulty obtaining services • Nursing Workforce	Status positive, no trend yet established	In a 2003 survey, 85 per cent of Manitobans rated the quality of overall health care received to be "excellent" or "good" and 81 per cent of Manitobans reported having no difficulty accessing routine care. Since 1999, the average waiting time for radiation treatment for most cancers has been reduced from six weeks to about one week; the number of Manitobans waiting for cardiac surgery has been halved; the number of CT scans performed has more than doubled and the number of MRI tests performed has more than tripled.	To reduce the waiting list for hip and knee surgery, further investments are being made in new equipment to increase capacity by 1,000 procedures in the next two years. Since 2003, Manitoba has implemented 17 new primary health care initiatives, 14 of which are in rural and northern Manitoba, to improve access and integrate service delivery.

CATEGORY II: PEOPLE

THEME	INDICATOR	TREND/STATUS	HIGHLIGHTS	RECENT ACTIONS
Early Childhood Development	Readiness for School • Readiness for school	Status positive; no trend yet established	The majority of children (72 per cent) in Manitoba are ready for school. Overall, school readiness of Manitoba's children is comparable to Canadian norms for most areas of development.	Since 2000, Manitoba has invested over $64 million in new funding for early childhood development. Investments by the province in child day care are up 64 per cent since 1999. A new parent support program has been initiated in 2005 with an investment of $1.4 million.
	Parent-Child Interaction • Positive parenting • Reading with children • Family functioning	Status positive; no trend yet established	The majority of children in Manitoba live in families with positive parenting (84 to 88 per cent) and are growing up in families with positive family functioning (88 to 89 per cent).	In 2005/06, $3 million has been allocated for 26 Parent-Child Coalitions serving families in Manitoba. The Healthy Baby program serves over 4,000 families each year and has been allocated $4.8 million for 2005/06.

CATEGORY III: COMMUNITY

THEME	INDICATOR	TREND/STATUS	HIGHLIGHTS	RECENT ACTIONS
Building Communities	Citizen Involvement • Sense of belonging • Involvement in community organizations • Neighbourhood cohesiveness • Adults with disabilities • Citizen satisfaction with government services	Positive	Manitobans show a very high level of connectedness to their communities and country, at 91 per cent describing their sense of belonging to Canada as very strong or somewhat strong. Manitoba had the third highest percentage (64.6 per cent) of individuals reporting that they were involved in at least one organization. The majority of families with children in Manitoba (84 to 88 per cent) feel they live in socially cohesive neighbourhoods.	Manitoba has implemented a number of programs to help citizens to work collectively to address community issues. These include Neighbourhoods Alive!, Community Choices, Aboriginal Partnership Committee and Hometown Manitoba. Manitoba was one of the first jurisdictions in Canada to appoint a minister responsible for Persons with Disabilities in 2000 and the budget for support for adults with a mental disability living in the community has increased by over $80 million, or 132 per cent since 1999/00. At Your Service Manitoba has been created to improve how Manitobans can access government information and services.
	Community Development • Immigration • Access to high-speed Internet	Increasing	The projected number of immigrants in 2005 is expected to be almost 15 per cent greater than the number in 2004, well on the way to reaching the target of 10,000 in 2006. As of 2004, 76 per cent of Manitobans have access to high-speed Internet. Manitoba has set a target of ensuring access to high speed Internet for all communities by 2010.	Manitoba provides over 41 programs to assist the settlement and integration of immigrants in the province. To date, over $26.5 million has been committed to Neighbourhoods Alive!, which supports community-driven revitalization of designated neighbourhoods in Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson. The Building Manitoba Fund, established in 2005, will provide $119 million for improvements to municipal infrastructure.

CATEGORY III: COMMUNITY

THEME	INDICATOR	TREND/STATUS	HIGHLIGHTS	RECENT ACTIONS
ocial upport	Housing • Adequacy and affordability • Renovation and rehabilitation • Owners and renters • Housing starts	Improving	The number of Manitoba households in "core need" was 14.9 per cent in 2001, down from 16.5 per cent in 1996. This is less than the national average of 15.8 per cent. The percentage of Aboriginal households in "core need" has dropped to 27.7 per cent in 2001 from 38.2 per cent in 1996. House sale prices have increased from an average of $21,682 in 1999 to an average of $40,729 in 2004, as neighbourhoods experience the effects of rehabilitation and renewal. Since 2000, housing starts in Manitoba are up 73.4 per cent, compared to about 53.9 per cent nationally.	In 2005, $3 million is being invested towards a new integrated shelter benefit strategy that will provide easier access to good quality housing for low-income Manitobans. Under the Affordable Housing Initiative, over $73 million has been committed for repair and renovation activity for inner-city neighbourhoods, under a federal/provincial agreement. Over $17 million has been allocated for 2005/06 to expand community living supports.
	Safe Communities • Crime rate • Workplace safety	Variable	In 2003, Manitoba's total violent crime rate decreased slightly. Manitoba's property crime rate increased in 2003 after having followed a general trend of decreases since 1995, but was still 12 per cent lower than the 1994 rate, which was the highest rate within the previous ten years. In 2004, Manitoba had the second highest number of police officers per capita of any province in Canada: 194 officers per 100,000 people. Workplace injuries have declined 22.4 per cent between 2000 and 2004.	Policing has been strengthened throughout the province through the ongoing and new funding for an additional 54 police officers to serve Winnipeg, Brandon, and rural and Northern Manitoba. The province supports 32 after-school "Lighthouses" across the province; four more are committed to for 2005. The SafetyAid pilot program helps seniors make their homes safer. The Safe Schools Charter has been implemented to help ensure a safe and caring school environment for all students.

CATEGORY IV: ENVIRONMENT

THEME	INDICATOR	TREND/STATUS	HIGHLIGHTS	RECENT ACTIONS
Environmental Management	Water Quality • Water Quality Index • Lake Winnipeg water quality	Stable	The water quality in Manitoba is generally good. There are concerns that water quality in Lake Winnipeg is changing – nutrient levels have increased by about ten per cent since the 1970s.	Since 1999, Manitoba has invested over $90 million in clean water projects in about 100 communities and in wastewater treatment projects in about 45 communities Manitoba Water Stewardship was created in 2003 to ensure Manitoba's water resources are managed in a coordinated and sustainable manner. The *Water Protection Act* was passed in June 2005 and will provide authority to set targets for water quality, establish water quality management zones and undertal watershed planning. The Clean Beaches program was developed in 2004 to provide information on protecting and improving wat quality at beaches and reducing health risks. The Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board was established in 2004 to address nutrient levels in Lake Winnipeg. Manitoba and Canada have formally requested the Dev Lake issue be referred to the International Joint Commission (IJC) to review the project risks and explore alternatives for flood mitigation.
	Protected Areas • Growth in protected areas	Increasing	Currently, 5.4 million hectares (8.4 per cent of Manitoba) are protected. Almost one million hectares of land have been permanently protected over the past five years.	In 2004, an agreement with the Nature Conservancy o Canada protected 4,118 hectares of endangered tall grass prairie and associated ecosystems, adding private lands to the network for the first time. In 2004, Manitoba announced its support for the nomination of the east side of Lake Winnipeg as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

CATEGORY IV: ENVIRONMENT

THEME	INDICATOR	TREND/STATUS	HIGHLIGHTS	RECENT ACTIONS
Climate Change	Meeting Kyoto Protocol Targets • Greenhouse gas emissions	Stable	Greenhouse gas emissions have remained stable from 1998 to 2002. Manitoba is well positioned to achieve the Kyoto Protocol target of six per cent reduction below 1990 levels because of development of clean, renewable energy sources. The St. Leon wind farm began operation in May 2005 and will reduce emissions by six megatonnes over its lifetime. Manitoba Hydro has converted its Selkirk generating station from coal to natural gas, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 0.2 megatonnes annually.	The Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund has contributed $1.3 million since 2001, supporting 55 community-based projects that help reduce emissions, increase awareness, support technological innovation and study the impacts of climate change. Energy efficient initiatives in government-owned buildings have resulted in a reduction in emissions of 3,000 tonnes between 1990 and 2001. Manitoba has partnered with the Government of Canada to create the Climate Change Community Challenge (C4), with the potential to reduce community emissions by one megatonne or more over three years. There are 140 alternative fuel vehicles that are part of the provincial government's vehicle fleet and a directive given by Cabinet encouraging ethanol fuel use.
	Renewable Energy • Wind monitoring towers • Communities producing/ exploring biodiesel • Geothermal heat pumps	Increasing	The number of wind monitoring sites in Manitoba has grown from zero in early 2002 to over 40 in 2005. There are now four communities exploring the viability of biodiesel, with one community production centre in Arborg. Geothermal heat pump sales have increased significantly over the past five years, from 120 in 1999/00 to 577 in 2004/05 for residential sales.	Manitoba is committed to the development of 1,000 megawatts of wind power over the next 10 years. The province is exploring the feasibility of exporting more power to Ontario and other neighbours. The province is developing a strategy regarding the potential use of geothermal energy in government owned or funded building projects.

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